

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

'Terminator' star fights her way back to mental health

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Linda Hamilton

Officials looking into deaths of Navy wife, baby

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Suzuki gets five hits in pursuit of 84-year-old record

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Matsui, right fielder Ichiro Suzuki

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Sailors to stay longer at Marine units in Japan

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PHOTOS BY JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

Yokota storm team

Left: Staff Sgt. Daniel Craig of the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron uses a chain saw to clear a tree that was struck by lightning across from the Natatorium on Yokota Air Base, Japan, when a powerful thunderstorm swept through the Kanto Plain on Wednesday. The storm's heavy rains, hail and high winds caused minor flooding and downed tree limbs. Above: Airmen of the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron work together to clear limbs from a tree that was struck by lightning on the base.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Iran nuclear dispute: Iranian President Mohammad Khatami called on the international community Wednesday to recognize Iran's right to enrich uranium, again insisting Tehran will pursue a nuclear program that some — including the United States — suspect is aimed at developing weapons.

Khatami warned that Iran would continue its nuclear program even if it meant ending cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N. nuclear watchdog.

Iranian officials have denounced demands by the IAEA that Iran cease its uranium enrichment program, a process that can produce fuel for both nuclear power stations and nuclear weapons, as "illegal."

Japan mad cow case: Japan confirmed its 13th case of mad cow disease Wednesday after a slaughtered Holstein tested positive for the brain-wasting illness, a government food safety official said.

The 8-year-old dairy cow in Nara prefecture, or state, was found to have the illness after an exam given by a state-run infectious disease research institute in Tokyo, said Seichiro Minase of the Nara food safety office.

The cow's meat and organs had not gone on the market and officials said the meat processing center in western Japan where it was dismembered will be thoroughly disinfected.

States

Martha Stewart trial: Ink expert Larry Stewart exuded confidence earlier this year as he testified against Martha Stewart in New York. Asked whether he was familiar with international standards for ink analysis, he said: "I wrote them."

No one disputed his expertise — he was laboratory director for the Secret Service. But prosecutors say Larry Stewart went too far in other parts of his testimony, and he now faces his own trial on perjury charges.

Jury selection was set to begin Wednesday, with lawyers for Martha Stewart watching the trial closely. Although she's headed to prison — a judge on Tuesday ordered her to surrender for her five-month sentence by Oct. 8 — the charges against Larry Stewart will continue to figure prominently in her appeal.

Mars rovers extension: NASA thinks its Mars rovers just might keep going and doing good.



South Korean deployment to Iraq: South Korean troops arrive at a military camp in Irbil, Iraq, earlier this month. About 2,800 troops have completed deployment to northern Iraq to become the third largest coalition partner after the United States and Britain, officials said Wednesday. Maj. Gen. Song Ki-seok, a top operations officer at Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the deployment had been completed on Wednesday without incident.

The space agency has funded another extension of their mission, for an additional six months, if they last.

The latest funding came as NASA regained reliable contact with the rovers Spirit and Opportunity after a 12-day period in which Mars passed nearly behind the sun, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory said.

The rovers, which have found evidence of past water activity on the Red Planet, landed on opposite sides of Mars in January and completed their primary, three-month missions on the surface in April.

Terror indictment: Authorities have indicted the brother-in-law of a Florida professor accused in a terrorism financing case. Maren Al-Najjar, a Palestinian, was deported from the United States in August 2002 and is believed to be in Lebanon. He is the brother-in-law of University of South Florida professor Sami Al-Arian.

Besides facing racketeering and conspiracy charges, Al-Najjar specifically was charged with perjury for denying to an immigration court judge that he was a member of the terror group Islamic Jihad, knew other members or provided the group with financial support.

Lottery winner: Three men burglarized the home of Jack Whittaker, winner of the biggest lottery jackpot in U.S. history, as an acquaintance of Whittaker's lay dead inside, police said Tuesday.

Whittaker was not at his Winfield, W.Va.,

home at the time, and Chief Deputy John Dailey said the death of Jesse Joe Tribble, 18, was not related to the burglary and was not a homicide. It may have been drug-related, Dailey said.

"We're pretty sure they knew he was dead. That's why they went inside and took the stuff," Dailey said.

D.C.-area sniper: The judge presiding over the second prosecution of a man convicted in a Washington-area shooting spree has removed himself from the case after prosecutors claimed he improperly conducted his own investigation into whether the man had been denied a speedy trial.

Circuit Court Judge Jonathan C. Thacher, in a letter to prosecutors and defense attorneys made public Tuesday, said he is removing himself from the case of John Allen Muhammad even though he believes he did nothing wrong.

Military

Bush-Koizumi meeting: President Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, meeting Tuesday during the annual opening session of the U.N. General Assembly, agreed to accelerate discussions on how to reposition or reduce U.S. troops in such Japanese locations as Okinawa, said a senior U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

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Sailors to serve longer at Marine posts in Japan

BY GREG TYLER

Stars and Stripes

Effective immediately, sailors serving in Japan with U.S. Marine Corps units on Okinawa, and on the mainland at Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station, will serve longer tours.

The bulk of these Navy servicemen are hospital corpsmen, dental technicians, religious program personnel and other specialists.

Unaccompanied sailors serving with Marines are governed by Marine Corps policy requiring a two-year tour, while Navy Personnel Command announced in a news report Wednesday. Until now, sailors on unaccompanied tours served one-year tours.

Unaccompanied sailors at Camp Fuji, an isolated facility, will continue one-year stints.

Accompanied sailors serve three-year tours.

"In the past, a DOD tour-length excep-

tion was made for very isolated duty stations or those with a high level of day-to-day life standards," Lt. Cmdr. Denise Holdridge, assistant branch head for hospital corpsman and dental technician assignments at the personnel command in Millington, Tenn., said in the report.

"Dramatic improvements in living conditions and an overall improved infrastructure in Japan has begun, which will eventually eliminate ... the need for exception to this policy," she said.

Petty Officer 1st Class Lisa Wimbusch, a religious program specialist at Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station's chaplain's office, said, "It's only certain rates that this would affect but I see that it has some good points and some disadvantages."

"For those who are single, two years is good. It goes by just as fast as one year, it seems, and it gives them a chance to come and see more of this part of the world," she said Wednesday.

"But for those who are married and ac-

companied, or married and they come unaccompanied, I think the Navy better be very careful in the screening process."

"That length of time could put a real strain on a family. If they come married and unaccompanied, it could be devastating to a marriage. So the screening is all important," she said.

Senior Chief Petty Officer Romeo Celestino, senior enlisted advisor at Iwakuni's Navy Branch Medical Clinic, said he agreed with Wimbusch on one point and spotlighted a financial consideration.

"It's good for the sailor having an extra year to stay in Japan if you happen to like the command and the country," he said.

"Also, the command will benefit from having personnel who are attached for at least two years. The Navy then will save more money from not moving personnel too frequently."

Officials say they will honor the original rotation dates of unaccompanied sailors al-

ready serving one-year tours on Okinawa with the Third Marine Expeditionary Force or Marine Corps Bases Japan. In addition, they will honor those rotating who already have started separating from their assigned units in anticipation of departure.

Holdridge stated that sailors already here could volunteer to stay for a second year via the Overseas Tour Extension Initiative Program. If they attain sponsorship for their spouses and command approval, accompanied sailors on one-year tours may elect to change to a three-year stint.

"Navy personnel still with their commands will be issued modified orders extending their time," she explained in the report.

The Navy Personnel Command said individual questions about the new policy should be directed to Master Chief Petty Officer Denise Brown at denise.k.brown@navy.mil, or by calling 901-874-3806 or DSN 882-3806.

E-mail Greg Tyler at: tylerg@pstrips.osd.mil

Japan, Navy working together to probe deaths of mother, baby

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
AND HANA KUSUMOTO

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Investigators looking into the deaths last week of a Navy wife and her newborn daughter say the baby died from trauma and that the mother's death is being investigated as a suicide, according to Yokosuka city police.

Kaoru Stout, the Japanese-born wife of a USS Gary sailor, died Sept. 16 after plunging nine stories from the Jyubun Tower apartments. Stout and her husband, Petty Officer 1st Class Ebron Stout, lived in a ninth-floor apartment with their newborn baby.

The 33-year-old woman died the morning after her baby was pronounced dead at Yokosuka Kyosai Hospital on Sept. 15.

"We believe the cause of the baby's death is not from sickness," said a Yokosuka city police spokesman, speaking on the customary condition of anonymity. The spokesman said authorities had not yet determined exactly how the 7-month-old infant had sustained the injuries or whether the trauma was intentional or accidental. The spokesman said authorities still were investigating whether the baby had been "dropped or hit" or injured in some other way. The baby's name was not available.

The spokesman said they believed the mother's fall, around

6:30 a.m., was intentional. Although an accident or even homicide wasn't being completely ruled out, the spokesman said, those possibilities were believed to be far less likely. He said no one witnessed the woman's fall.

Her husband, also 33, is not a suspect in the case, said Mike Chase, Yokosuka base spokesman.

Japanese police are involved in the case because the woman was a Japanese citizen. However, the police said, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service was taking the lead on the case, with Japanese authorities acting as "an adviser."

Chase declined to comment on the investigation or confirm the Japanese spokesman's account but said last week that U.S. and Japanese authorities were "working together closely" on the case.

The NCIS special agent in charge could not be reached for comment. According to the NCIS Web site, "the public cannot obtain information on pending NCIS investigations."

Stars and Stripes independently confirmed the names of the couple. Navy public affairs officials refused to identify them, citing concerns about possible "harm or embarrassment," and said the names would be made public only after investigations into the deaths were completed a month or more in the future.

The woman was pronounced dead at the base hospital at 7:13 a.m. Sept. 16, Chase said. The morning before, her infant daughter had been taken to the base hospital, but doctors there determined the baby needed care they couldn't provide, Chase said, so the infant was taken to Yokosuka Kyosai Hospital nearby.

The base hospital does not have an intensive care unit for new-

born babies, Yokosuka Kyosai Hospital does.

Chase said the baby died at the Japanese hospital shortly after noon and then was returned to the base hospital's morgue.

Neighbors of the Stouts said both Japanese and NCIS investigators were working in the couple's apartment and common hallway from about 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. the day the baby died.

Chase declined to answer how Kaoru Stout came to be at the apartment early Sept. 16 or say whether she was alone. He declined to say where her husband was at the time of the baby's injury or the time of his wife's death.

The woman was discovered by a passer-by, according to Chase.

In addition to the criminal investigation, a legal investigation also is initiated when a death occurs, said Cmdr. John Wallach, spokesman for Commander Naval Forces Japan. That investigation includes findings of fact and opinion, and, if determined, recommendations.

It's unknown how long Ebron Stout has been assigned in Japan or how long the couple was married. Kaoru Stout reportedly had a son of about 4 years old from a previous marriage. Records show that the petty officer had at least one previous tour at the base, where he was assigned to a shore command.

A memorial was scheduled on Sept. 24 at an off-base location near the main gate. But Capt. Samuel Perez Jr., commander of Destroyer Squadron 15, said the ceremony was not for the public. "Petty Officer Stout has requested this be for family and friends," Perez said.

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Sinbad shares laughs with sailors



PHOTOS BY JOHN E. WOODS/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Actor-comedian Sinbad visited sailors at Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Japan, for a live performance at Club Trilogy on Tuesday evening. In a two-hour performance frequently interrupted by hoots and laughter from the crowd, the comedian talked about a variety of humorous subjects, and he frequently encouraged crowd participation in his monologue. More than 450 base community members enjoyed the family show, which was open to both adults and children.



Correction

A front-page teaser in Thursday's editions misidentified Chief Roy Dean Bullock of Seiling, Okla.

S. Korea-based GIs Soldier of the Year

By FRANKLIN FISHER

Stars and Stripes

News that South Korea-based Sgt. Wilfredo A. Mendez was chosen 2004 Soldier of the Year for the entire U.S. Army touched off feelings of pride and excitement within his unit at Camp Humphreys, unit members said Wednesday.

"Oh yeah, everybody's all excited. We got the whole battalion, the sergeant major" announced it in front of the motor pool yesterday," said Pfc. Justin Kuntz of Company A, 3rd Military Intelligence Battalion (Aerial Exploitation), Mendez's unit.

The Army selected Mendez after he tied in week-long competition with soldiers from other major Army commands. Mendez represented one of those commands, the 8th U.S. Army, which is headquartered in Seoul.

He was en route back to Camp Humphreys on Wednesday, his unit said, and couldn't be reached for comment.

The Army also announced Staff Sgt. Andrew J. Bullock was the Army's 2004 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. Bullock is a Ranger instructor with the 5th Ranger Training Battalion at Fort Benning, Ga., and represented Training and Doctrine Command in the NCO of the Year competition, which ran concurrently with the Soldier of the Year competition.

The competitions in both categories started Sept. 12 and put the soldiers through the Army Physical Fitness Test, a six-mile road march, day and night navigation courses and weapons qualification, other tests of battle skills and a written exam and essay.

Twenty candidates took part in the finals from 10 Army major commands.

Then, on Sept. 16 came a final step in the competition: the appearance of a board of senior soldiers who appraised not only the competing soldiers' ad-

swers to questions but their military bearing, speaking ability, military knowledge and military record.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston presided over the board, which met in Crystal City, Va.

"The whole week has been a perfect challenge," Mendez said later at an award ceremony at Fort Myer, Va., according to an Army news release.

"All the competitors are here because they know what it takes to be a winner," Preston said as he announced the winners. "Take what you've learned in the past week ... and apply it to your daily life."

Even though Mendez went to the competition representing the U.S. Army in South Korea, Company A wants everyone to know that Mendez is their guy.

"He came out of 8th Army but we take it all the way down — it's Alpha Company," said the company's 1st Sgt. Roger Bonesteel. "Very proud of him. Of course he represented the battalion well, but we in Alpha Company, we're staking our claim to him."

Bonesteel said Mendez is a "great asset" to the Army. "He's one heck of a soldier. He's sharp, smart, and he's got it all. He's got the total package. A very intelligent soldier who is good at oral communications. He's a leader. A peer leader."

Mendez also excels in physical fitness and weapons qualification, Bonesteel said.

Mendez is assigned to Company A's Aerial Reconnaissance Support Team. In wartime, the team would set up high-tech gear on the battlefield and receive information from low-flying aircraft scouting the battle area. Mendez is trained to analyze and interpret that aerial intelligence and then brief commanders.

Mendez, from Rio Grande, Puerto Rico, is working toward a bachelor's degree in business administration and is a graduate of the Airborne School and the Combat Life Saver Course. He's been accepted for duty with the Army Special Forces, Bonesteel said.

E-mail Franklin Fisher at: fisher@stripes.com



REBEA CRITZER/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Sgt. Wilfredo A. Mendez, left, accepts the award and title of 2004 Soldier of the Year from Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston during a ceremony at Fort Myer, Va.

Marine gets suspended sentence in yen forgery

By CHIYOMI SUMIDA

Stars and Stripes

NAHA, Okinawa — A 21-year-old Marine was sentenced to two years in prison, suspended for three years, for attempting to counterfeit Japanese currency.

Pvt. Stephen S. Williams, assigned to the 3rd Materiel Readiness Battalion, 3rd Force Services Support Group on Camp Schwab, showed little emotion as a translator repeated in English Naha District Court Chief Judge Nobuyuki Yokota's sentence and scolding to "become a better citizen."

During a previous hearing, Williams admitted to the crime. He said that he created the two fake

10,000-yen bills on a color photocopier at his girlfriend's home in Gushikawa last June, to minimize his expenses on Okinawa before leaving for Seattle, his next duty station.

He said he wanted to save money so he could fly to his family's home in North Carolina.

According to testimony at the trial, Williams made two copies of a 10,000-yen bill (about \$93) and passed one of them at a Nago gas station on June 24. A suspicious gas attendant reported to police that Williams bought 3,000 yen of gas and received 7,000 yen (about \$65) in change.

Okinawa police traced the license number of the car Williams

was in to his girlfriend in Gushikawa. He was arrested the next day, June 25, just a day before he was due to be transferred back to the United States, officials said.

The defendant committed the crime to minimize his expenses," Yokota said during the sentencing session. "The motive was very nearsighted and there is no reason for the court to lighten the sentence recommended by the prosecutor."

"Circulating fake money could severely harm public confidence in the country's genuine currency," he said.

Yokota did, however, suspend the sentence for three years, stating that he took into account Will-

iams' "deep remorse" and lack of a prior criminal record.

Prosecutors, arguing that Williams' actions were "skillful, malicious and deliberate," had demanded a sentence of two years in prison at hard labor.

Williams was released into the custody of the Marine Corps.

In such cases, administrative action, including discharge, can be taken against Marines convicted of felony crimes. A public affairs spokeswoman contacted Wednesday could not confirm whether Williams faced such action.

However, she said, "The Marine Corps takes all crime seriously, and we hold every Marine accountable for their actions."

E-mail Chiyomi Sumida at: sumidac@stripes.com

New Iwakuni squadron

Navy Strike Fighter Squadron 97 arrived for duty at Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station Sept. 12 as part of a regular six-month unit deployment, according to a base news report released Wednesday.

VFA-97 is based at Naval Air Station Lemoore, Calif. Cmdr. Paul Mackley is the command and control officer, comprising about 220 sailors and 12 F/A-18 aircraft, the report stated.

Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 returned to Miramar, Calif., after completing a six-month Iwakuni deployment.

From staff reports

Wind gusts blamed for bullet box dropping from Navy helo in Japan

Additional safeguards added to prevent repeat of incident

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A box of bullets dropped from a U.S. Navy helicopter in July because of an unlucky combination of wind and vibration, according to Naval authorities.

Although all normal procedures and regulations were followed, according to Commander Naval Forces Japan, the box, containing 200 bullets for the helicopter's machine gun, was pushed out of its bracket and fell from the helicopter gun-mount attached to the door.

The mishap occurred July 19 as the helicopter was flying from Asahi Naval Air Facility to guard the USS Kitty Hawk as it put to sea. All but two of the bullets were found, after several days of searching, in a parking lot area in Yokohama.

No one was injured in the incident, although it caused concern among some Japanese residents and local governments, and the U.S. Navy apologized and vowed to determine what had happened.

Although no one on the helicopter saw exactly what had hap-

pended, investigators surmized that wind gusts of about 100 miles per hour, coupled with the usual vibrations of the helicopter, pushed up on the bottom of the box, disengaging it from its mount.

The Navy since has adopted additional safeguards to prevent a repeat of the accident, according to a CNFJ news release. The new safeguards include additional restraints, revised procedures for loading ammunition and moving cargo, especially over land, and added restrictions for when the helicopter doors could be open.

Yokota Baptist Church

Pastor Warren Webster

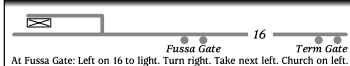
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At Fussa Gate: Left on 16 to light. Turn right. Take next left. Church on left.

U.S.: Female detainees won't be released



U.S. Army soldiers bail out after their Bradley fighting vehicle was disabled Wednesday by a roadside bomb during a major incursion into the Sadr City section of Baghdad.

'Mrs. Anthrax,' 'Dr. Germ' to remain held despite statement made by Iraqi official

BY ALEXANDRA ZAVIS
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A senior Iraqi official said Wednesday that a decision had been made to release a top female germ-warfare scientist for Saddam Hussein, but Iraq's leader and U.S. officials moved quickly to squelch the idea that she would be freed soon.

Iraqi militants who beheaded two Americans have threatened to kill a Briton unless female detainees are let go.

A videotape posted on Islamic Web site Wednesday showed a man identifying himself as British hostage Kenneth Bigley, 62, pleading for British Prime Minister Tony Blair to help save his life.

"To Mr. Blair, my name is Ken Bigley, from Liverpool," the blindfolded man said in the videotape. "I think this is possibly my last chance," the speaker said in the grainy video. "I don't want to die. I don't deserve."

"Please free female prisoners held in Iraqi prisons."

Tawhid and Jihad, the militant group led by Jordanian terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, has threatened to kill Bigley unless Iraqi women held in U.S. custody are released. The group has already killed two American hostages it kidnapped along with the 62-year-old Bigley from their Baghdad residence last week.

After the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad said there would be no immediate release of either of the two women in U.S. custody, Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Alawi said there were no immediate plans to free the detainees, disputing the earlier statement by his Justice Department that a decision was made to release one of them.

Alawi said his government has begun reviewing the status of its detainees, including the two female scientists known as "Dr. Germ" and "Mrs. Anthrax" for their involvement in Saddam Hussein's biological weapons programs.

But he said the review process had nothing to do with the current hostage situation and had started weeks ago in Iraq.

"We have not been negotiating and we will not negotiate with terrorists on the release of hostages," he said in a telephone interview from New York. "No release takes place unless I authorize it."

A decapitated body was found

in Baghdad on Wednesday. The family of hostage Jack Hensley said it had received confirmation that the body was Hensley, whose slaying was announced a day earlier by the al-Qaida-linked militant group loyal to Jordanian terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

Meanwhile, U.S. aircraft and tanks attacked rebel positions in Baghdad's Sadr City slum, killing 10 people and wounding 92.

Suicide attackers set off two car bombs in Baghdad, one of them killing six people. The second, in the upscale district of Mansur, wounded four U.S. servicemen and two Iraqis.

Two U.S. Army soldiers were killed in separate incidents in northern Iraq on Wednesday, officials said. One soldier was killed by a roadside bomb about three miles south of Tikrit. The other died of his wounds following an attack on a patrol in the northern town of Mosul.

In Samarra, clashes erupted after sunset Wednesday in the city where U.S. troops had earlier claimed success against militants waging a 17-month insurgency, police said.

At least one child was killed and five people wounded in fighting in the city's northeastern neighborhood of Qadisiya, said police Maj. Raed Saadoun Ahmad. Four houses were also damaged, he said.

The U.S. military did not immediately comment.

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U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, 1,037 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 787 died as a result of hostile action and 250 died of nonhostile causes. The figures include three military civilians.

The British military has reported 65 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, eight; Slovakia, three; Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 899 U.S. military members have died — 678 as a result of hostile action and 221 of nonhostile causes, according to the military's numbers Monday.

Since the start of U.S. military operations in Iraq, 7,413 U.S. servicemen have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defense Department's weekly tally.

The latest deaths reported by the military: ■ Two Marines were killed in separate attacks west of Baghdad, the military said Tuesday.

The latest identifications reported by the Defense Department:

■ Army Pfc. James W. Price, 22, Cleveland, Tenn.; killed Saturday when an explosive hit his vehicle in Baghdad, Iraq; assigned to 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

■ Army Sgt. Thomas C. Rosenbaum, 25, Hope, Ark.; killed Saturday when an explosive hit his vehicle in Baghdad, Iraq; assigned to 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

IN THE WORLD

Philippine terror camps concern U.S., Australia

BY JIM GOMEZ

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Muslim guerrillas in the southern Philippines have hosted terror training camps for militant groups from Indonesia and Malaysia for at least seven years, according to a secret government report.

The training continued at least until early this year, with 19 new members of Jemaah Islamiyah — the al-Qaida-linked Southeast Asian terror group — finishing in January, said a copy of a government security assessment report seen Wednesday by The Associated Press.

U.S. and Australian officials have expressed deep concerns over persistent reports of such camps in the volatile southern Philippines, saying Jemaah Islamiyah could pass deadly skills to a new generation of militants capable of striking anywhere.

A number of suspected Jemaah Islamiyah militants arrested in Southeast Asia have said they

trained in the southern Philippines.

The covert training was reportedly hosted mostly by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, a large Muslim group that's been waging a bloody separatist insurrection and has rural strongholds across the impoverished south.

The MILF has repeatedly denied any links with Jemaah Islamiyah or other foreign terror groups, and — in an apparent effort to bolster its on-and-off peace talks with the government — has pledged to help track down terrorists.

MILF spokesman Eid Kabalu invited government officials to visit suspected training sites. "They will find nothing," he said.

The report said Jemaah Islamiyah's founder, the late Abdullah Sungkar, and MILF chairman Salamat Hashim, who died last year, agreed in 1995 to set up a training base inside the MILF's sprawling Camp Abubakar stronghold in Maguindanao province.

Terror training started in 1997-98, the report said.

The Jemaah Islamiyah training base was set up near three other camps used separately to train new militants from neighboring Indonesia, it said.

After Camp Abubakar fell during a July 2000 military offensive, Jemaah Islamiyah instructors and trainees fled and set up a new camp, Muaskar Jabal Quiso, on densely forested Mount Cararao on the boundary of Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur provinces, the report said.

The MILF has let other militant groups from Indonesia and Malaysia train in their strongholds in the past, the report said.

It also said al-Qaida members have been at MILF camps, but didn't say when.

The Philippine military has acknowledged that up to two dozen Jemaah Islamiyah members may still be in the south, but claims they're on the run and no longer training. But other military officials said on condition of anonymity that training continues.

Aid arrives in storm-ravaged Haiti



People fight for water as it's distributed Tuesday in Gonaives, Haiti. The city, Haiti's third-largest, has been devastated after floods from Tropical Storm Jeanne swept through town, killing more than 700 people and leaving many others homeless. On Wednesday, U.N. peacekeepers fired into the air to keep a hungry crowd at bay as aid workers handed out bread, the first food in days.

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Political e-mails get 2 civilians in hot water

By Sandra Jontz
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — E-mailers beware. Two federal civilian employees face disciplinary action for e-mails containing political messages, prompting the U.S. Office of Special Counsel to file the claims and issue an advisory.

The employees' actions allegedly amount to electioneering on company time and violate the U.S. Hatch Act, said OSC spokeswoman Cathy Deeds.

"We are in a totally new area [with electronic messages]," Deeds said. "Federal employees still can be very active in politics, just on their own time, and they can't use [work-related] equipment."

The OSC, which governs federal civilian and some state employees, filed the complaints with the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) on Aug. 12.

One claim is against Environmental Protection Agency employee Maureen Taylor-Glaze, who faces discipline for allegedly sending an e-mail message to about 15 co-workers from her office during business hours, according to an OSC press release. The message contained a doctored picture that purported to show actress Jane Fonda and presidential candidate John Kerry speaking at an

Hatch Act do's and don'ts

Permitted/prohibited political activities for most federal employees (exceptions at Web site below):

Employees may:

- Be candidates for public office in nonpartisan elections (e.g., for school boards and planning commissions).
- Register and vote as they choose.
- Assist in voter registration drives.
- Express opinions about political and issues.
- Contribute money to political organizations.
- Attend political fund-raising functions.
- Attend and be active at political rallies and meetings.
- Join and be an active member of a political party or club.
- Sign nominating petitions.
- Campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments, municipal ordinances.
- Campaign for or against candidates in partisan elections.

■ Make campaign speeches for candidates in partisan elections.

■ Distribute campaign literature in partisan elections.

■ Hold office in political clubs or parties.

Employees may not:

■ Use official authority or influence to interfere with an election.

■ Solicit or discourage political activity of anyone with business before their agency.

■ Solicit or receive political contributions (may be done in certain limited situations by federal labor or other employee organizations).

■ Be candidates for public office in partisan elections.

■ Wear partisan political buttons on duty.

■ Engage in political activity while on duty, in a government office, wearing an official uniform or using a government vehicle.

Source: Office of U.S. Special Counsel
at www.osc.gov/ha_fed.htm

anti-war rally. Underneath were negative statements about Kerry, and the statement, "Please keep this going. We do not need this man as our President."

Because her case is pending, Taylor-Glaze said Tuesday she could not speak about the incident, but she would like to share her story once the matter is resolved "so that no one else ends up like me," said the 66-year-old EPA employee.

Air Force civilian employee Donald Thompson faces discipline for allegedly sending an e-mail message titled "George W" to more than 70 people while working, the release states.

The message contained a document mimicking President Bush's resume, and is filled with allegations of incompetence and malfeasance specifically directed toward Bush's defeat in the upcoming

election. It also contains the phrases "Please consider me when voting in 2004" and "Please send this to every voter you know."

Ward Morrow, who is representing Johnson, can't comment because the case is new. Morrow is assistant general counsel for American Federation of Government Employees.

The penalty for someone who knowingly violates the Hatch Act

ranges from a minimum of 30 days unpaid suspension to termination, said Matthew Shannon, deputy clerk of the MSPB. There is a wide range of possible penalties if a respondent is found not to have willfully violated the act.

U.S. military personnel must follow a different set of rules — DOD directive 1344.10.

In general, servicemembers may register to vote, cast a ballot, express their opinions on candidates and issues (though not as a representative of the armed forces), make contributions to a political organization or influence to interfere with an election, attend partisan and nonpartisan political meetings, rallies or conventions as long as they are not in uniform.

Servicemembers cannot use official authority or influence to interfere with an election, affect the course or outcome of an election, solicit votes for a particular candidate or issue, or require or solicit political contributions from others.

And generally, a servicemember cannot be a candidate for, hold, or exercise the functions of civil office, but there are some exceptions listed in the directive.

The Hatch Act prohibits federal executive branch employees from engaging in political activity while working and from doing so in a federal building or with federal equipment.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at jontz@starsandstripes.com

House moves closer to OK'ing federal pay raise

By Dan Morgan
The Washington Post

The House on Tuesday moved closer to passing a major spending bill that provides a 3.5 percent pay raise for civilian federal employees and prevents the Bush ad-

ministration from proceeding with controversial rules encouraging competition between private contractors and federal workers for government jobs.

In a setback to the administration, the House voted 210 to 187 for an amendment by Rep. Chris

Van Hollen, D-Md., setting aside the contracting rules issued last year. Twenty-four Republicans joined 185 Democrats and an independent in voting for the amendment, which would cut an \$89.6 billion bill funding the Transportation and Treasury departments in fiscal 2005.

Administration officials contend the rules are merely intended to make government more efficient. But federal employee unions and Republican and Democratic lawmakers with sizable numbers of federal civilian employees have argued that the rules are tilted to the advantage of the private sector.

"We're not trying to throw out competitive sourcing; we're trying to make the rules fair," Van Hollen said.

Van Hollen said the Bush administration contracting rules issued last year did away with a previous requirement that outside contractors demonstrate that they can save the government either 10 percent of its present costs, or \$10 million, by transferring services now performed by federal job holders.

Yesterday's vote, he said, was aimed at bringing the administration back to the bargaining table to make further changes sought by federal workers.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has added a similar provision blocking the new rules to its version of the spending bill. The full Senate has yet to take up that measure.

To some extent, the bipartisan

support in the House reflects the far-flung nature of today's federal establishment, with agencies and branch offices in most congressional districts dealing with various programs and services. It also reflects federal law enforcement and immigration to counterterrorism, agricultural extension services, housing programs and veterans health care.

"Our nation is able to deploy our air, sea and land fleets safely and swiftly thanks to the muscle and logistical support of both federal civilian employees and military employees, so it is appropriate to provide them with equal pay," Rep. Steve Hoyer, D-Md., said in a recent statement.

After declining from 2 million to 1.7 million during President Clinton's administration, the government's civilian work force has risen slightly despite new Bush administration contracting rules aimed at encouraging the private sector to compete for jobs performed by federal employees.

The House's action yesterday, along with strong support for a 3.5 percent pay raise for 1.8 million civilian workers, was a vivid contrast to the anti-government rhetoric often heard in the GOP-controlled House.

The Bush administration had proposed increasing the pay of nonmilitary government workers by only 1.5 percent for fiscal 2005.

But the House Appropriations Committee voted 42 to 16 for an amendment offered by Washington area lawmakers giving feder-

al employees the same 3.5 percent raise as the uniformed military.

The nonmilitary payroll is expected to be about \$140 billion in 2005.

John Threlkeld, legislative representative for the American Federation of Government Employees, said the contracting rules "are manifestly unfair."

He said many federal employees fear the administration has set "covert quotas" for transferring federal jobs to the private sector, and "feel under pressure" from the White House budget office.

But lawmakers and labor groups acknowledge that it is difficult to pinpoint how many federal jobs have actually been lost because of the policy. Threlkeld said federal workers have won the majority of job competitions so far.

The underlying Transportation-Treasury bill includes \$58.8 billion for the Transportation Department and \$11.2 billion for the Treasury Department, along with funds for the White House, the Federal Aviation Administration and other agencies.

In the Senate, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a \$101 billion funding package for environmental, housing and veterans programs, after adding \$800 million for repairs to the space shuttle and a mission to service the Hubble Space Telescope.

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Most people agree that we each have the right to full access to the information and services we need to make the most of our time overseas. Stars and Stripes wants to listen to our readers, and is asking for volunteers to join us for a series of 90-minute Focus Groups to be held October 2004 at Yokota, Yokosuka and Camp Zama. Eligible participants include Active-Duty, DoD Civilians and Family Members.

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FACES

Action star saves herself

'Terminator' actress recounts her battle with mental illness

BY MICHAEL P. WEINFELD
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — "Terminator" fans know Linda Hamilton as Sarah Connor — tough as nails and out to save the world. But in real life, Hamilton was having trouble saving herself.

In an interview with AP Radio, Hamilton revealed that she's bipolar. She has struggled with depression most of her life and was a compulsive eater as a child. She knew something was wrong, but she didn't know what.

For 20 years, she tried different therapies and treatments in a desperate search for answers. She was finally diagnosed 10 years ago. Once she got her illness under control, she decided to talk about it.

Why? So others don't have to suffer as she did, and to promote a program that stresses exercise and good eating for people who suffer from mental illness.

AP: The "Terminator" movies gave you an image as a tough cookie. Did you feel that way yourself?

Hamilton: I became this sort of iconic figure of fitness and toughness and I was like, "Oh, no, no, you don't want to be like her." She was a woman in hell, a woman that was suffering horribly. Please don't mistake who I am for who that character is.

AP: Were you tough to live with in those years?

Hamilton: I was in suffering or angry with my husband over the smallest slight, he would suffer. And if we happened to be with his brother and sister-in-law, they would suffer.

There was no capacity to remove myself from my condition and think about other

people in the room and how they might not want to have to be dragged into this so it was all about me.

AP: How many years before you found out what was wrong?

Hamilton: I would say 20 full years of symptoms, not counting my childhood. From 20 to 40. I call them my lost years.

AP: Were you having severe mood swings?

Hamilton: Very severe. My first husband said, "you have the most incredible joy and the most incredible sorrow that goes with it."

Without giving it a name, he had pretty much summed it up for me.

AP: What were your manic highs like?

Hamilton: It's an amazingly brilliant time. You don't need sleep. I think I existed on four hours sleep a night for four years. Sleep doesn't seem necessary. You wake up feeling great.

But it's not all great feelings. A lot of the raging that I did I think was the manic part of my disorder. The capacity for fighting, war, taking everything on, taking too much on, overachieving and then raging because my system was so depleted.

AP: And how about the lows, what were they like?

Hamilton: Like falling into a manhole and not being able to climb out no matter what.

AP: How were you finally diagnosed?

Hamilton: About 10 years ago, when I really was crashing and burning, had spent many years, you know, not only looking for the answers but sort of self-medicating with drugs and alcohol as well, and was struggling to keep my marriages intact.

It was at that point that someone

wouldn't let me out of his office. He said, "You are so seriously bipolar. You should not leave this office without me calling your primary physician and we need to get you on medicine."

AP: Were you afraid of what the meds might do to your personality?

Hamilton: There is a lot of my early career was based on that angry woman that was just an organic outgrowth of the chemical imbalance that I had. And I thought I'm going to become normal, and I won't have those extraordinary gifts as an actress.

But there is nothing that has been diminished or dulled. I don't feel that any of my greatness has been covered over.

AP: I understand that eating right and exercising also helps.

Hamilton: There is a definite correlation between the mind and the body. Being physically fit doesn't mean anything if the mind isn't fit and being fit in the mind is not worth much if the body is suffering.

I recommend a balance between the therapies that are available, the medicines that are available, but not to give up on the body as a result. Forty percent of the people who are being treated for mental illness are not addressing the physical body.

AP: What about exercise?

Hamilton: Exercise is an incredible key to feeling well. But for people with mental illness, taking care of the body is not an automatic thing. The mind is in such chaos it's hard to come up with a plan. So to people like us, it's more important than ever to follow a regimen.

AP: Why are you going public now?

Hamilton: My quality of life is more amazing than I ever could've imagined in those 20 years of struggling with illness. In



Actress Linda Hamilton, best known for her role as Sarah Connor in the "Terminator" movies, tells a radio audience of her 20-year history of manic-depression.

those 20 years, I did not know the meaning of the word hope. It was just a bleak, difficult existence.

With all the gifts, with all the successes that I had, it was still an incredibly bleak way of living and I want to be a messenger of hope. I have 20 years of self-interest. It was all about Linda, Linda, Linda, and I want to make up for that time and spread the word that there is help available.

I want to destigmatize the words mental illness.

A hair scare for Cybill

With her red velvet hooded cape, Cybill Shepherd could have been Little Red Riding Hood.

During an interview on Britain's GMTV Tuesday morning in London, the 54-year-old actress-singer, who once appeared on the cover of Vogue magazine, explained that she'd worn the cape to hide her "jet lag hair."

"Sorry about the cape, but I didn't have time to do my hair," she explained to bemused host Fiona Phillips.

When Phillips joked, "Well, we're pleased you made an effort this morning," Shepherd apologized and told her: "I don't mean to be disrespectful. Would you like to see my jet lag hair?"

She removed the cape to reveal her blond hair tied up in a topknot. Loosening her tresses, she laughed, "Would you like me to brush it now?"

Stumping for dieters

Sarah Ferguson is happy to travel the country waving the

Weight Watchers flag, but says the government needs to do its part to combat obesity.

Ferguson led more than 700 Weight Watchers faithful in a rousing "super meeting" Monday in Amherst, N.Y., as part of an eight-city tour for the weight-loss group. Afterward, she said membership to such support-based systems should be covered by Medicare or Medicaid.

"Yes, I can speak for Weight Watchers. Yes, I can travel around inspiring people, but let's get the country to be a bit more supportive and realizing it's a killer," said the former member of Britain's royal family, who has lobbied on Capitol Hill on weight-related health issues.

Ferguson entered recounted a struggle with weight when the tab-



Shepherd



Ferguson

dubbed her "Duchess of Pork." "I started so believing it I started sabotaging my life," Ferguson told the audience, ticking off financial problems, the end of her marriage and other embarrassments that fed a tabloid frenzy in the 1980s and '90s.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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IN THE STATES

CBS appoints panel to probe Bush-National Guard story

BY DAVID BAUDER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — CBS News appointed a U.S. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh and former Associated Press chief executive Louis Boccia to investigate what went wrong with its story on President Bush's service in the National Guard.

Thornburgh is a former two-term governor of Pennsylvania and served as attorney general in the administrations of Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush.

Boccia retired last year as president and chief executive officer for The Associated Press. He served on the panel that probed operations at the New York Times following the Jayson Blair scandal.

CBS News admitted on Monday that it could not authenticate documents it had used in a "60 Minutes" story that questioned Bush's service in the Guard during the Vietnam War era. Many critics consider the documents fake.

The network and its chief anchor, Dan Rather, have apologized for airing the story.

The two-person panel will begin immediately, with no deadline for their investigation, CBS News spokeswoman Sandra Genesius said.

"CBS News has a long tradition of responsible journalism," said CBS co-president Leslie Moonves. "In this case, it's clear that something went seriously wrong with the process. There is no question that the independent review we announced... is both

Gore camp dismissed allegations

BY MATT KELLEY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former Vice President Al Gore's presidential campaign heard but did not pursue allegations about George W. Bush's Air National Guard service, similar to the information in discredited documents aired by CBS News this month, a former campaign official said Tuesday.

Tony Coelho, who ran the campaign for several months in 2000, said he did not follow up on the claims because they were not serious enough to demand further attention.

"Of everyone I talked to, no

one had anything that rose to the level that we should get ourselves into," Coelho said.

White House officials and other Republicans suggested that Democrat John Kerry's presidential campaign was behind the CBS report. Kerry campaign officials denied that.

Kerry adviser Joe Lockhart said he spoke with Bill Burkett, who gave CBS the documents, after a network producer suggested it.

Lockhart and Burkett said they only discussed how Kerry could respond to a group of Republican veterans who accuse Kerry of exaggerating his Vietnam War record.

necessary and important, and I look forward to its thoughts and recommendations.

CBS promised the pair would have full access to everyone at the network and their report would be made public.

The CBS report cited documents purported to be from one of Bush's commanders in the Texas Air National Guard. The documents say the commander, Lt. Col. Jerry Killian, ordered Bush to take a medical exam, which he did not, and felt pressured to suggest an evaluation of then-Lt. Col. Bush.

A report in Wednesday's editions of the Herald-Zeitung in New Braunfels, Texas, cited a retired Texas Air National Guard commander whose unit included Bush as saying politics did not in-

fluence his dealings with the future president during the Vietnam War.

Retired Col. Walter B. Staudt said that no strings were pulled in the 1970s to get Bush into the Guard.

Staudt said he had no idea why the memo's author had decided to use his name. He claimed he never met the former Texas National Guard officer who was a source for the document and would not now watch CBS News.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS-AP

A train passes snow-covered aspen trees Tuesday on its route from Georgetown, Colo., to Silverton, near Silver Plume. More than 16 inches of snow fell on parts of the state Tuesday, the last day of summer.

Late-summer snowstorm blankets parts of Colorado

The Associated Press

DENVER — A storm gave Colorado a taste of winter on the last day of summer Tuesday, dumping 16.5 inches of snow in some parts of the high country.

The heavy, wet snow, falling before many mountain aspen trees began changing to yellow for fall, caught some off guard but was a welcome reminder of the upcoming ski season for others.

The National Weather Service reported 16.5 inches of snow fell northeast of Steamboat Springs, while 1 foot was reported on near Rabbit Ears Pass.

Carol Forney of Steamboat

Springs knew the snow was coming but waited until Tuesday morning before work to rush out to pick the tomatoes in her garden.

"People were saying, 'Boy, is this early. I wasn't ready for this,'" said Forney.

Ski resorts were hoping the weather would be good for business.

"It's fantastic for the ski industry to get snow early when people are purchasing passes and starting to think about their winter vacations," said Emily Jacob, spokeswoman for Breckenridge.

September snowfall in the state is unusual but not unheard of, the weather service said.

FCC fines CBS \$550,000 for Jackson 'malfunction'

BY JENNIFER C. KERR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal regulators on Wednesday fined CBS a record \$550,000 for Janet Jackson's "wardrobe malfunction," which exposed the singer's breast during this year's Super Bowl halftime show.

The Federal Communications Commission voted unanimously to slap each of the 20 CBS-owned television stations with the maximum indecency penalty of \$27,500. The total penalty of \$550,000 is the largest fine levied against a television broadcaster. Most of the FCC's bigger fines have been against radio stations.

"As countless families gathered around the television to watch one of our nation's most celebrated events, they were rudely greeted with a halftime show stunt more fitting of a burlesque

show," said FCC Chairman Michael Powell. "The show, clearly intended to push the limits of prime time television."

The commission decided not to fine CBS' more than 200 affiliate stations, which also aired the show but are not owned by the network's parent company, Viacom.

The two Democrats on the 5-member commission said the fine should have been higher. Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein said the fine amounted to a "slap on the wrist" and suggested that the agency could have sent a stronger message about indecency by reprimanding CBS' affiliates.

MTV, a Viacom subsidiary, produced the Feb. 1 halftime show, which featured Jackson and singer Justin Timberlake performing a racy duet. At the end, Timberlake pulled away Jackson's black leather top, exposing her right breast to about 90 million viewers.



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On the issues



Has the North American Free Trade Agreement with Mexico and Canada been good, on balance, for the U.S. economy?

President Bush



"NAFTA has enabled Mexico, Canada, and the United States to expand our solid, dynamic, and mutually beneficial trading partnership. In its first 10 years, NAFTA has helped increase exports to Canada and Mexico by 85 percent.

NAFTA has been a powerful force for increasing the international competitiveness of all three economies, for attracting enormous flows of inward investment, and for contributing to the record productivity growth we have experienced for the past decade."

Sen. John Kerry



"President Clinton was trying to move us in the right direction on job creation and on including labor and environmental standards in trade agreements. I supported him and I made the right decision. We created jobs and opened markets, but since then we have

learned that we need to go even further on labor and environment standards, John Edwards and I will fight so [that] strong and enforceable labor and environmental standards are included in the core of future trade agreements, like they were in the Jordan Free Trade Agreement."

AP

Bush commies diplomacy, campaigning after speech

BY SCOTT LINDLAU

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — President Bush, straddling the worlds of diplomacy and re-election politics, met Pakistan's leader Wednesday before hitting the road for Pennsylvania, a state at the top of his campaign wish list.

Sometimes the line between the two worlds blurs, as it did Tuesday when Bush told Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh "how important continuity in U.S. foreign policy is." The quote was repeated by a senior administration official who attended the meeting and briefed several dozen reporters on condition he not be identified.

Bush met Wednesday with Pakistan's President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, a crucial ally in the war against terrorism but one with whom there are strains elsewhere in the relationship. The two men held a long handshake at a photo session before sitting down, but said nothing to reporters.

Musharraf promised Monday to "end the presence of al-Qaida" terrorists in his country, but he

said the United States needed to win the confidence of Muslims.

"The Muslim world feels as if it is being targeted," Musharraf said.

Musharraf, a general who seized power in a bloodless coup in 1999 and draws his main political strength from the military, has given mixed signals in the past week as to whether he would fulfill a pledge to relinquish his separate role as army chief by year's end.

The senior administration official said Bush was interested in "the long-term process of building democratic institutions in Pakistan" but declined to say whether Bush would lean on Musharraf to keep his promise.

Bush was mainly interested in Pakistan's peace talks with archrival India and with conferring new praise on Pakistan for helping pursue al-Qaida members, the official said.

Less than six weeks before the U.S. elections, Bush sought to showcase his world-leader credentials at the United Nations' annual gathering, while keeping one eye firmly fixed on the campaign trail.

On Tuesday, Bush also met with the leaders of Iraq, Japan and Afghanistan.

Making his annual address to the world body, Bush defended his decision to invade Iraq and urged the assembled leaders to stand with him with that country's struggling government.

The proper response to spreading violence, Bush said, "is not to retreat, it is to prevail."

Bush was spending 41 hours in New York before making his 37th trip as president to Pennsylvania, where he planned seven hours of campaigning. He lost the state in 2000 and has visited it more than any other, most recently on Sept. 9.

Four polls conducted in Pennsylvania this month showed the race between Bush and challenger John Kerry in a statistical dead heat.

Bush was stressing his education and health care agendas in King of Prussia, Pa., a Philadelphia suburb.

Later this morning was surveying flood damage in Allegheny County and receiving a briefing from regional officials on recovery efforts.

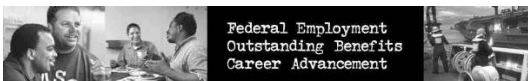
PAC indictment

AUSTIN, Texas — A grand jury has handed up 32 indictments for an alleged a scheme to make illegal campaign contributions through a political action committee associated with House Republican leader Tom DeLay.

DeLay accused the prosecutor of using the investigation for political purposes.

A Travis County grand jury on Tuesday indicted three political operatives and eight companies, alleging campaign finance violations related to corporate money spent in the 2002 legislative races. The corporate donations were made to Texans for a Republican Majority, a political action committee created with help from DeLay. DeLay was not questioned or subpoenaed as part of the case.

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BY MARY DALRYMPLE

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Sen. John F. Kerry is reassuring voters, in a state rich in retirees, that a Democratic administration would protect the two pillars of retirement benefits, Social Security and Medicare.

The presidential candidate's two-day swing through Florida that started Tuesday comes in the wake of deadly hurricanes that brought polling and politicking to a near halt.

President Bush made his third campaign-season trip to Florida this week to assess damage caused by Hurricane Ivan. Kerry has been to the state that decided the 2000 election nine times before.

He planned to tell voters Wednesday that the president's proposed changes to Social Security could mean a windfall to financially and investment companies, at the expense of taxpayers.

Bush wants to let younger workers establish individual retirement accounts, an idea that Kerry derides as privatization.

"That's not a plan. It's a rip-off," Kerry said in remarks prepared for a town hall-style meeting in West Palm Beach, Fla.

"George Bush's scheme hurts seniors by cutting benefits, and it hurts our economy by increasing the deficit."

"The truth is, the only people who benefit from George Bush's

Social Security scheme are the special interests."

Kerry pointed to a study by Austan Goolsbee, a University of Chicago business professor, who studied a model that proposes workers set aside a small percentage of their pay in private accounts as a method to adjust Social Security to a rapidly graying population.

Goolsbee concluded that fees charged by financial companies could reap them hundreds of billions of dollars and eat 20 percent of the benefits in an account held by a worker making an average salary.

The Bush-Cheney campaign said Kerry hasn't explained how he'd meet the challenges posed to Social Security by aging baby boomers.

"His record is one of voting for higher taxes on current retirees and ignoring the needs of future retirees," said spokesman Steve Schmidt.

Kerry wants to bolster the retirement program by reducing the deficit and expanding the economy. Some experts say economic growth might be insufficient to cover future benefits because those benefits grow as wages increase.

The Massachusetts senator also wants to improve Medicare by retreating the recently passed prescription drug benefit to let the government negotiate for bulk discounts on drugs.

Kerry goes politicking in storm-weary Florida

FRIDAY EVENING / SEPTEMBER 24, 2004

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| 7:50 News (12) | 6:00 MLB Highlights | 6:00 MLB Highlights | 12:00 Classical Music: Puccini's (2:30) | 7:00 M Size Up News Thursday | |
| 8:00 News (12) | 6:30 Grand Sumo Digest | 6:30 Grand Sumo Digest | 1:00 Tron/From 3000: A Man's Story (2:30) | 7:00 Top Choice | |
| 2:05 Athlete Paralympics (1) | 11:00 BS News | 11:00 BS News | 1:00 The 100th Anniversary of the Meiji Restoration (2:30) | 7:00 Pure Music | |
| 3:10 Grand Sumo: The 13th Day (1) | 11:30 Economic News | 11:30 Economic News | 1:00 The 100th Anniversary of the Meiji Restoration (2:30) | Afternoon | |
| | 11:30 Top News from Around the World | 11:30 BS Prime Time: World Reports | | 12:00 Classical '90s | |
| Afternoon | 6:30 Top News from Around the World | 12:00 MotoGP 12th Round, Japanese GP (v) | | 1:00 Consensus: Nelly | |
| 2:05 Athlete Paralympics (1) | 7:30 Top News from Around the World | 2:05 Asian News | | 1:00 Top Choice | |
| 3:10 Grand Sumo: The 13th Day (1) | 8:00 MLB: Tampa Bay Devil Rays vs. New York Yankees | 2:05 News Hour | | 1:00 Top Choice | |
| | 11:00 Eiji Yano: World Cab | 4:00 Asian News | | 5:00 Top Choice | |
| Evening | 11:00 Eiji Yano: World Cab | 5:00 Top News from Around the World | | | |
| 6:15 Japan Pro Ball: Yokohama BayStars vs. Hiroshima Carp Dragons (42) | 12:00 CNN News | | JAPAN TV-BS11 | | |
| 7:00 NHK News (1) | 12:00 CNN News | | Morning | | |
| 7:30 Athlete Paralympics (20X) | 12:00 CNN News | | 6:00 U.S. Movie (1997): Out of Nowhere (1:40) | | |
| 9:00 French News (1) | 12:00 CNN News | | 2:40 U.S. Movie (2002): Analyze That (1:40) | | |
| 9:30 French News (1) | 12:00 CNN News | | 1:00 U.S. Movie (2001): The Spanish Prisoner (1:40) | | |
| 10:00 French News (1) | 12:00 CNN News | | Evening | | |
| 10:30 French News (1) | 12:00 CNN News | | 9:50 U.S. Movie (2002): Changing Lanes (1:42) | | |
| 11:00 French News (1) | 12:00 CNN News | | 1:00 Spanish Soccer Liga Espanola | | |
| 11:30 French News (1) | 12:00 CNN News | | 4:00 Spanish Soccer Liga Espanola | | |
| 12:00 French News (1) | 12:00 CNN News | | | | |
| 12:30 Grand Sumo Digest (1) | 12:00 CNN News | | | | |
| 2:30 44 Series Highlights (6) | 12:00 CNN News | | | | |
| 2:55 Documentary (9) | 12:00 CNN News | | | | |
| 3:10 U.S. Movie (1986): Platoon (1:50)(12) | 12:00 CNN News | | | | |
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Thanks to fellow soldiers

"Groundhog Day." A movie starring Bill Murray who finds himself experiencing the same day over and over again. This is what we call the experience of watching the World Operating Base perimeter guard towers.

"Groundhog Day." All the days are the same. One melts into another. As one soldier from the 1st Cav describes his deployment in the East Cav division of Men's Health magazine: "A single day played over and over on a continuous repeat cycle for a year or so." That is the towers.

"Groundhog Day." Many times we call in a gunshot, mortar fire or rocket launches. We even get to fire our weapons on occasion. We do our job, but mostly the days and nights are the same. Except yesterday.

On my way to the gym, I met a soldier who told me about a Humvee. He was a National Guard soldier, I think from Oregon. "Those up-armored ones weight about 10,000 pounds," he said. "Do they work?" I asked.

He proceeded to tell me a story — I will not give the details due to operational security — but it boiled down to a Humvee getting hit in which one soldier in a crew of five died during one hellacious battle. Considering the details of the story, it was a miracle one died and not three cases for Ameri-can safe and engineering.

"Sorry about your buddy," I said honest-ly.

The soldier looked at me in the eye and replied, "He did quick."

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, tone and clarity.

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In that instant, he said more than just those three words. This soldier and his buddies look for improvised explosive devices. That's their job. They risk their lives every day. They know this: They have seen their buddies die. "He did quick," was more than a short response. It was a code of conduct, a prayer, a request to God for their own time comes.

They do their job, they risk their lives and have saved many others by finding these de-

vices. And yet they ask for so little. I respect them and I hope to honor them with this letter.

I am a transportation specialist and I will be on convoys next month. Thanks to these soldiers my job will be a lot safer. Please pray that no more die, either quick or slow.

SpC. Lawrence Thomas
Tajl, Iraq

Proud of Olympians

Members of our Olympic team were fantastic in Athens — exhibiting in their accomplishments, respectful and proud in victory and in defeat. We as a nation should reach out to them and thank them for their outstanding efforts and commitment to excellence. They showed what makes our country so special, a place where men and women of every race, religion and belief have the opportunity to rise to the top of the world.

To hear "The Star-Spangled Banner" played so many times to honor their accomplishments and thank them for their service to our country should be proud of and thankful for.

To our men's basketball team, I don't care that you didn't win the gold medal, you represented your country when other didn't get to. In my eyes you are heroes. To every other member of our U.S. Olympic team, regardless of whether you came in first, second, third or last, I want to pass on sincere congratulations and thanks for doing your best and for honorably representing us.

Daniel L. Chance
Heidelberg, Germany

Vaccination process needs shot in arm

BY HENRY I. MILLER

Infectious viral diseases are not the dreaded killers and cripplers they were half a century ago, but they still exact a huge toll. Every year in the United States influenza kills about 35,000 and requires the hospitalization of nearly a quarter-million. During the past two years, the mosquito-spread West Nile virus has caused more than 11,000 serious illnesses and about 300 deaths. Nearly 4 million Americans have been infected with the hepatitis C virus, and there are 25,000 new cases annually.

American drug and biotech companies should be burning the midnight oil working on vaccines to prevent such diseases, but flawed public policy has discouraged vaccine development to the point that supplies of lifesaving vaccines are in jeopardy. The fundamental problem is that government policies discourage companies from investing aggressively to develop new vaccines. Producers have abandoned the field in droves, leaving only a few dozen products. As a result, the United States has experienced shortages of several essential vaccines, and some schools have been forced to waive immunization requirements because there aren't enough vaccines available.

Vaccination to prevent viral and bacterial

diseases is modern medicine's most cost-effective intervention. Although their social value is high, their economic value to pharmaceutical firms is low because of vaccines' low return on investment and the exposure to legal liability they bring manufacturers.

These problems are largely the result of wrongheaded public policy: Federal bureaucrats seem not to understand the concept of carrots and sticks. For example, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the largest domestic purchaser of vaccines, uses its buying clout to compel deep discounts for purchases. Arbitrary and excessive regulation also blocks progress. Consider the Food and Drug Administration's position on a vaccine to prevent meningitis C. The state-of-the-art vaccine against this infectious disease is approved for use in the United States, although three excellent products are available in Canada and Europe. The safety and efficacy of these vaccines have been amply demonstrated, yet more than 20 million doses administered. Yet the FDA refuses to recognize the foreign approvals.

Moreover, the FDA has a history of removing safe and effective vaccines from the market based merely on perceptions of excessive side effects; this terrifies producers.

Finally, the trial-lawyer lobby opposes change in vaccine liability that would reduce the frequency of huge judgments.

We need a fundamental change in mind-set: The rewards for creating, testing and producing vaccines must become commensurate with their benefits to society, as is the case for pharmaceutical chemicals.

First, our government should accept reciprocity of vaccine regulatory approvals between the United States and the European Union. This would cut development costs.

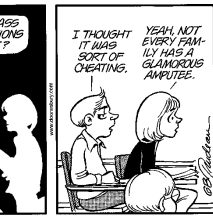
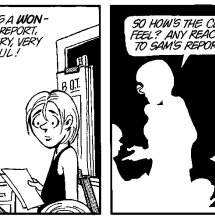
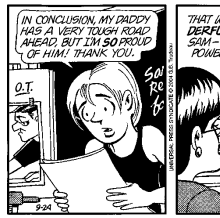
Second, public agencies must stop extorting huge discounts for vaccines. Companies should be given tax credits to defray research-and-development costs. And vaccine developers should be guaranteed exclusive market rights for a fixed period. Health-care insurers should be required to exempt vaccinations from deductibles under their plans. And finally, a regulatory-compliance department should be allowed that after a manufacturer meets the rigorous regulatory requirements for vaccine approval, any medical problem from use of the product is considered to be nonculpable, and damages would be compensated by the government.

These needed reforms won't come easy. Getting the government to adopt them will be about as easy as dragging a child to the doctor for a painful shot.

Henry I. Miller is a fellow at the Hoover Institution at a Stanford, Calif.-based think tank. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury



OPINION/OMIBUDSMAN

Bush addressed wrong audience at U.N.

The (Baltimore) Sun

It was to be expected that President Bush's address Tuesday to the U.N. General Assembly would be aimed less at the diplomatic audience than at the domestic political audience that will vote within weeks on his re-election bid.

And from that standpoint, he probably achieved what he set out to do: reaffirming the correctness of his course in ousting Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq without U.N. approval, and casting that action as part of a broader cause — notably the widely supported war in Afghanistan — to make the world safer by fighting tyranny and bringing freedom to oppressed peoples.

"Eventually," he said, "there is no safe isolation from terror networks or failed states that shelter them or outlaw regimes or weapons of mass destruction. Eventually,

there is no safety in looking away."

Yet in once again stoking domestic security fears, even in the face of ample evidence that the Iraqi regime posed no immediate threat to the United States, the president may have missed the chance to truly engage world leaders in that broader cause.

His new proposal — creation of a fund within the United Nations to assist fledgling democracies such as Iraq's in conducting elections, and establishing independent courts, a free press, political parties and trade unions — was offered as a throw-away line at the end of his speech.

Bush observed that all member nations "have a stake in the success of the world's newest democracies" but gave no signal that he was serious about trying to persuade his world partners to work with him to secure a peaceful transition in Iraq, which can prob-

ably be won only with their help.

He and Secretary of State Colin Powell were reported to be lobbying behind the scenes for help in providing security for Iraqi elections. But aides indicated he had little hope of securing more than training assistance for Iraqi police, and debt relief, which had been promised in a U.N. resolution adopted last spring.

Indeed, Bush supporters scoffed at Democratic challenger John Kerry's assertions Monday that world leaders outside of the original coalition that backed the Iraq invasion are open to appeals for assistance now.

As insurgents returned this week to their grisly tactic of beheading noncombatant contractors, security in Iraq has deteriorated to the point that no nation can be enthusiastic about sending its citizens there. Replacing Bush with Kerry likely wouldn't change that. And yet... the United



States can't give up on making Iraq safety and security an international project. It's not about retreating, as Bush hinted Kerry would do, but about believing...

weakness right before an election he's trying to win on a record of making this country safer. How inconvenient for reality to intrude. Yet it has, and there's no time to waste in dealing with it.

Page 1 headlines during Iraq war true to mission

This is the fourth in a series of columns on the coverage by Stars and Stripes of the conditions in Iraq since April 2004, which was the first anniversary of the fall of Baghdad.

Ombudsman

The first three columns appeared in the June 28, July 27 and Aug. 30 editions.

This column deals with the headline and graphic displays on Page 1. Two hundred front pages from April through the end of the presidential convention last year were tracked and studied. The European, Pacific and Mideast editions were reviewed. Where the Mideast

and the European editions had the same headlines on Page 1, only one paper was counted. The Pacific edition always had at least one different headline from the European and/or Mideast edition and was tracked separately.

The goal was to determine the number, emphasis and variety of stories chosen for the Page 1 display and the tone and quality of the headlines.

As a tabloid, which is physically half the size of the standard newspaper page, Stars and Stripes has faced complaints that it was "a sensational tabloid" because it used large headlines on crime stories on Page 1. This is the stereotype that comes from the approach of some metropolitan area tabloids.

But a tabloid is, first and foremost, a convenient, easy-to-handle and easy-to-read format. It is also an ideal format for the military audience. Some tabloids use a mix of text and pictures with text starting on Page 1. Others are just pictures and headlines on Page 1. Stars and Stripes has designed and uses a format that tries to present variety on what's on its side the newspaper through headlines and pictures. And what was the tone and emphasis on the main Page 1 headline?

Page 1 of Stars is a billboard for the news of the day. This review looked at Pages' front pages in five ways. How many news items were featured on Page 1? What was the topic of the main headline? Was the topic chosen for news value or "sensationalism"? What was the total number and variety of news items featured on Page 1? And what was the tone

and emphasis of the Page 1 headlines?

Stories featured on Page 1: Seventy-one percent of the time there were six displays on Page 1; 16 percent of the time, 5; 12.5 percent of the time, 7; and, only once, 4. The look of Page 1 was consistent and attractive. Main headline: Military news, which would be the equivalent of "local news" for the typical hometown newspaper, dominated. Forty percent of the stories were stories of specific interest to military personnel. Two-third were a combination of positive and negative stories about how the Iraq war aftermath was affecting military personnel. One-third was significant coverage of non-war issues.

The most recent column in this series ("Stripes reporters had their own Iraq stories to tell") praised the efforts of the Stars reporting staff to provide a dimension of the Iraq situation beyond the breaking news. The headline survey showed that the reporting effort was properly taken to the next level with significant attention on Page 1.

Breaking war action was the main story 27.5 percent of the time; national news was featured 12 percent of the time; foreign news 10 percent; and miscellaneous other, 10.5 percent. The news, the typical fare of many tabloids, was included in the "all other" category, which totaled 20 stories. Only four of the 20 were crime stories. And all four were in the Pacific edition and a typical one (main headline and subhead) was: "20 sailors implicated in Guam drug probe." "Some will face

jailed time; all to be kicked out of Navy."

News value of main topics: A review of all the main headlines showed much more emphasis on news value than "sensationalism."

The main headlines consistently were declarative and not provocative. Some examples:

■ "Kosovo 5 years later" — "The U.S. military presence is now smaller, but the mission hasn't changed since 1999"

■ "String of attacks kills about 100 in Iraq"

■ "Hundreds of students held captive in Russia"

■ "Saddam defiant in court"

■ "Bush OKs 3.5 percent salary hike for troops" — "How much does that mean for you? See the 2005 pay chart"

■ "U.S. officials warn: Stay clear of Iraqi food" — "Estimates say over 100 soldiers getting sick each week"

Variety of news on Page 1: Overall there were 1,183 headlines or pictures on Page 1 in the 200 front pages reviewed. It was no surprise that 359 stories or 30.4 percent of headlines — at least one story a day and a second three out of four days — involved the Iraq war. The 359 represented 55 breaking news stories; 164 military (staff-produced); 92 foreign; and 47 national.

The breakdown of nonwar stories that compose the other 69.6 percent of the total showed variety and, no surprise, sports led the list. It was:

■ Sports — 19.4 percent of the overall total

■ Military (staff-produced) — 17.8 percent

■ Entertainment/features — 17.3 percent

■ National — 6.7 percent

■ Foreign — 4 percent

■ Miscellaneous other — 1.7 percent

■ Business — 1.5 percent

■ Disaster/crime — 1.2 percent

Headline tone and accuracy: The tone and text of the headlines reflected care in balancing being informative, declarative and accurate — but not being dull and/or boring. In an exercise of nipping, I found less than a dozen that could have used a rewrite.

On the positive side, I found a good number of headlines that made you want to read the story while avoiding exaggeration and being provocative.

Those that stand out include:

■ "Building the road to danger"

■ "Combat stress: 'The silent enemy'"

■ "Poker in a high-stakes environment"

■ "Staying a step ahead"

■ "Oprah takes stock of booming success"

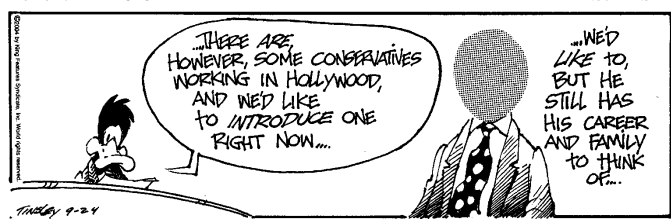
■ "Memory of late coach motivates softball team at Marine Forces"

In summary, the front pages in this period reflected the mission of being the hometown paper overseas for the military and care in the selection of the news items featured and the writing of the headlines.

Send comments to Joe Ungaro at Ombudsman, Stars and Stripes, 529 44th St., NW, Suite 350, Washington, D.C. 20045-1301. Phone civilian (404) 364-0835; fax: (404) 364-0856; or e-mail ombudsman@stripes.osd.mil

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Fish story big fraud

FL TAVARES — It took Ronnie Lynn Robinson two years to own up to his fish tale.

Robinson admitted to common-law cheating — a rare crime — for turning in what looked to be a thawed-out fish with a belly full of lead weights at a 2002 Lake County bass-fishing tournament. Robinson was charged and stripped of his nearly \$2,000 prize at the Harris Chain Bassmasters Big Bass Tournament after tournament director Darren Ratliff gutted the winning fish in his kitchen and found three 8-ounce weights in its stomach.

Robinson, 51, finally admitted guilt in exchange for nine months of court supervision, during which he must stay clear of fishing contests.

Good-looking cops

IN BLUFFTON — There may be a silver lining the next time you are pulled over by Bluffton's police. At least it'll be by the best-dressed officers of any city of its size in the United States.

According to a uniform trade group, this small city about 20 miles south of Fort Wayne shared best-dressed honors with New York, which won in the large city category. The award is given annually by the National Association of Uniform Manufacturers and Distributors, a trade group. Entrants are judged on overall appearance, neatness, projection of authority and other standards. The competition is open to all the nation's police departments.

High-level defense

NC DURHAM — Attorney Bill Thomas may get a lot more business from female motorists thanks to a novel defense strategy: High heels can help beat a DWI rap.

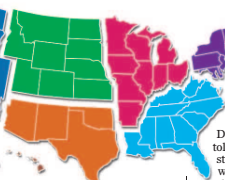
Thomas asked a judge how anyone could pass a field sobriety test — which requires a lot of walking — in a pair of 3½-inch stiletto high heels.

The town-before-heard argument created a minor sensation among court officials and observers. Thomas contended it would be "fundamentally unfair" to use the results of field sobriety tests against one of his female clients because she was wearing stiletto heels at the time, making her unsteady on her feet.

One of the tests required the woman to walk a straight line for some distance and then pivot quickly. In another, she was supposed to stand on one foot for 30 seconds. Considering that she was wearing stiletto heels, the woman did remarkably well by making it to 16 seconds, Thomas argued.

Spanish GED stats up

CO DENVER — The number of Colorado residents taking the Spanish version of the GED high school equivalency test has jumped from three in 1988 to 974 last year, officials report. That still represents only about 7 percent of the 14,688 people who took the GED last year in Colorado. Some of Colorado's large employers, including state government and Coors Brewing, accept the Spanish



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

GED as a credential for hiring.

Creek not fit for fishing

GA ATLANTA — City officials warned against fishing or entering the Chattahoochee River and an Atlanta creek that flows into the river after a wastewater line ruptured. Ten million gallons of raw sewage spilled into the creek and reached the Chattahoochee River.

Officials couldn't predict when the pollution would clear. Atlanta's drinking water was not affected.

Tunnel survey to start

MN ST. PAUL — Official explorers carrying their own air will begin a monthlong survey of the century-old tunnel network through the Mississippi River bluffs in St. Paul. Three teens died of carbon monoxide poisoning there in April. City officials hope the survey will lead to making the area safe. The tunnels were built for storage.

New paper opens

VT BRATTLEBORO — The statewide weekly newspaper, a new Vermont Guardian, has opened offices in Winooski and Brattleboro, with plans to begin publishing. Editors say the paper



Studying in the sun

Jasmin Jacob, 22, studies for her standardized board exam for registered nursing on her porch in Kansas City, Mo.

will be committed to covering all of Vermont. They also plan to publish news on a daily Web site.

Help for quitters

ND BISMARK — The state's Health Department is offering a toll-free telephone line to put state tobacco users in touch with counselors who will help them quit. The "tobacco quit line" will use counselors from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and the community medicine department at the University of North Dakota's medical school, health officials said.

Woman's injury unclear

PA BELLEFONTE — Police and prosecutors originally said a woman suffered two gunshot wounds after a Sept. 6 argument with her boyfriend, but now they aren't so sure.

Billy Joe Leathers, 33, of Howard, was charged with attempted murder, aggravated assault and other offenses for allegedly shooting his girlfriend in the back of the head.

The woman, whose name was not released, was treated at Geisinger Medical Center and received one staple to close the injury in her head.

Centre County District Attorney Ray Grisar said doctors found two small wounds about a centimeter apart on the back of the woman's head, but they could not say for sure that she was shot.

Improving cab service

HI HONOLULU — State transportation officials said they will try to improve the efficiency of the taxi-dispatching service at Honolulu International Airport. The state has fielded several complaints of long waits for cabs since Ampco System Parking took over dispatching May 1. Ampco said it's taking steps to make its operation more efficient.

Donation with a catch

IN MONTPELIER — Town elders plan to offer a \$100 million gift to this community. There's only one catch: It'll be a century before donors can collect.

Kenny Neff, who was mayor from 1983 to 1995, organized 10 donors to give \$1,000 each to the trust fund, but the city won't be able to tap it for 100 years. Neff said the goal was to give future city leaders an endowment.

Neff worked with Dick Paxson, a representative of Edward Jones Investments in Montpelier, on organizing the fund. Paxson calculated that the \$10,000 could grow to more than \$125 million after a century at 10 percent growth a year.

Alabama hosting hunts

AL PELHAM — Alabama will hold two more archery hunts this year to kill deer at Oak Mountain State Park. The hunts will be Oct. 26 and 27 and Dec. 15 and 16, said Barnett Lawley, state conservation commissioner. The hunts are part of efforts to thin out the herd. Deer have contributed to erosion problems by stripping low-lying vegetation throughout the park.



Raking the river

State biologist Kevin Frey scoops small fish out of the Tug Fork of the Big Sandy River at Warfield, Ky. He was checking to see how well fish in the stream are reproducing in the wake of a coal sludge spill.



Hay for horses?

Herbert Litts, 70, cuts hay on the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill site in Hyde Park, N.Y. Litts plans to bale the hay this weekend to use on his farm in Highland, which he runs with his sons.



Cool summer

Christy Maier, left, and Brian Mattice play on the swings at Ontario Beach Park in Rochester, N.Y. This summer, the weather in the Rochester area never hit 90 degrees.



Baby boom Tracy Baroni Allmon watches her four children, Piper, 3, in front of her, and her seven-month-old triplets, from left, Bailey, Luke and Spencer, play at the Child Development Center at Bristol-Myers Squibb, where Allmon works, in Plainsboro, N.J.



Roping 'em in Lobsterman Edward Figueiredo of Cohasset, Mass., reaches for his lobster rope before throwing it in a dumpster at Duxbury Waste Transfer Station in Duxbury, Mass. Figueiredo was one of the many Massachusetts lobstermen participating in a program to remove 220 tons and 3,250 miles of dangerous, floating lobster gear with state-of-the-art, whale-friendly equipment.



Ready, aim, fire Law enforcement officers compete Monday during the first day of the National Rifle Association's National Police Shooting Championships at the Jackson Police firing range in Jackson, Miss.



Biking by Buddha Darren O'Brien of Waterford, Ireland, rides his bicycle down Pine Street in Burlington, Vt., past a mural of a Buddha painted by Burlington-based artist Ron Hernandez.

Re-enactors warned

SD CHAMBERLAIN — Two hundred years after Lewis and Clark's tense encounter with Black Buffalo's Teton Sioux, historical re-enactors following the explorers' route have received a blunt warning from some American Indians.

"All you did by coming up into our territory is open old wounds," said Alex White Plume, a Lakota from Pine Ridge, S.D., who was among a group of Indians who met with expedition leaders, including a direct descendant of Capt. William Clark.

Expedition members had invited the Indians to their camp on the Missouri River to express their concerns about the re-enactment. About 25 Indian men, women and children came carrying a banner asking, "Why celebrate genocide?"

"We're here to ask you to turn around and go home," White Plume said. "Don't proceed through our territory."

Peyton Clark, great-great-grandson of William Clark, was clearly shaken by the anger and pain expressed by some of the camp visitors. The expedition moved on to the Crow Creek reservation, their next stop upriver.

Waiting lists for classes

MA BOSTON — A shortage of English instruction for adult immigrants has resulted in packed classes and long waiting lists.

The Boston Sunday Globe reported that more than 17,000 people are on waiting lists for free or low-cost classes. A study by the Massachusetts Institute for a New Commonwealth, a Boston think tank, found that as many as 46,000 people in Boston, and 195,000 in Massachusetts, speak little or limited English.

Pups go their own ways

AK SEWARD — Two orphaned ringed seal pups nursed to health this summer at the Alaska SeaLife Center both launched remarkable migrations after their release last month near Nome, swimming hundreds of miles in opposite directions.

Satellites tracked one pup 500 miles through the Bering Strait into the Arctic Ocean toward an area south of Russia's Wrangel Island, where other ringed seals congregate. The other pup swam southeast on a meandering 600-mile tour through the Bering Sea into Bristol Bay toward the Alaska Peninsula.

"The two of them were raised together and were released the exact same time at the same beach, and they just broke up," said Russ Andrews, a marine mammal biologist who specializes in developing new tracking technology.

Man falls to death

AZ GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK — A man was found dead after falling from a trail in Grand Canyon National Park and landing about 500 feet below, a park spokeswoman said. Efforts to recover the man's body using a helicopter were hampered by high wind, said park spokeswoman Leah McGinnis.

It was an unclear why the man fell while hiking, McGinnis said.

His wife had been walking in front of him and didn't see him fall.

Authorities didn't release the man's identity because they had not yet positively identified the body.

Man arrested at airport

CA LOS ANGELES — A man was arrested at Los Angeles International Airport for having three bullets sewn inside his jacket after he set off a metal detector, authorities said.

Jay Daniel Brown, 39, was taken into custody and booked for investigation of possession of dangerous weapons, said Officer Jason Lee, a police spokesman. Bail was set at \$20,000.

Brown set off a metal detector in Terminal 4, where he was planning to board an American Airlines flight to Austin, Texas, Lee said.

No passengers were evacuated from the terminal, authorities said.

Tour bus crashes

WY GREYBULL — A packed tour bus went out of control and overturned in a snowstorm in the Horn Mountains, injuring at least 20 people, seven of them seriously.

It took a few hours for some victims to be extracted from the wreckage on U.S. 14 about 10 miles south of Burgess Junction in north-central Wyoming, according to Sgt. Stephen Townsend, spokesman for the state Highway Patrol. A half-inch of slush covered the road at the time.

The America Tours International bus was full, with 42 passengers and a driver, and Townsend said the passengers spoke Dutch. Townsend said the bus was traveling west toward Yellowstone National Park when the crash occurred, but added that officials with the Mesa, Ariz.-based tour company were unsure where the bus originated or where it was going.

The injured were taken to a clinic in Basin, about 50 miles southeast, and a hospital in Worland, about 100 miles from the crash site.

Free tuition program

CT STORRS — The state is spending nearly \$1.6 million a year to pay for foster child care for students. Experts believe that the investment will save the state money in the long run because the program's recipients won't require social services or need to be in prison. Three students are enrolled in the program. Students are asked to contribute \$500 a year and apply for grants and scholarships.

Fugitive pleads guilty

FL MIAMI — A fugitive captured in Colombia last year pleaded guilty to helping smuggle more than 24 tons of cocaine into the United States between 1984 and 2000, federal officials said.

Alex Decubus, a Cuban-born naturalized American citizen, admitted to helping run a small fleet of ships and boats, including the 226-foot Danish freighter Nernia, to carry cocaine between the Bahamas and south Florida and conspiring with others to launder more than \$6 million in drug money.

If a judge accepts the plea, the defendant faces between 20 years and life in prison and a maximum fine of \$4 million.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

Big Daddy Jupiter pays a visit to Libra, where he'll stay for the next year. This transit brings luck to anyone who's trying to make relationships work — couples, groups and teams are like geese that fly south in a "V" formation. The momentum they create together carries the group much faster than any one goose could go alone.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(September 24). New social connections help you make your way in this year! You are widely accepted and loved, and having more friends helps you see the way to financial and romantic opportunity. The exceptional work you turn in this November puts you in the spotlight. A promotion and more money follow. Singles feel secure with loving Leo and Scorpio.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're first in line and will have the rewards of the early bird. On days like this, you wonder why anyone would ever be late! Saying "good-bye" is something you've got to do tonight. Be thoughtful and brief; don't draw it out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

The stars give you the chance to reinforce to the world who you are. Your decency causes you to automatically respond correctly and kindly when tough situations arise. Games of chance are featured tonight.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Everywhere you go, you bring a joyful mood and a joke or anecdote. Though few may say it out loud, your effervescent personality is appreciated. That's why you'll be invited to socialize with the "it" crowd.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Somewhere between the conscious and the unconscious is the limitless, childlike state of mind where everything and anything is possible. That's the part to nurture today. What you believe will happen possibly will.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

That person who really comes to depend on you is probably on the

verge of taking advantage, as far as you're concerned. You'll find subtle ways to get your message across without causing too many waves.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You use your money-making skills for the good of a group, and everybody wins. Being of service is always a lucky move. Pay attention to your reservations. When did ignoring your intuition ever get you anywhere good?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's a pleasure to give yourself over to your creative inspiration. If your idea is rejected initially, that only means it needs more work. Solve repair and property problems. Big profits are made from little but consistent efforts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Today is about trial and error, so lighten up on yourself. Failure is just a signal that your current method is not going to work right now. There's nothing personal or shameful about that, unless you choose to see it that way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Without risk, there is no reward. If you later find out you're in something over your head, you'll have time tonight to think things over. Loved ones won't judge you, so it's safe to talk about what you're going through.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Legal issues play a part now. Any arrangement that involves a contract or implies an unspoken agreement has legal implications. Get everything in writing. Playing the "I thought you said" game could cost you money.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Developments in a key relationship will make you feel at ease. Now, you can think of yourself for a change. It's a challenge to get any work done, unless your job relies heavily on chatting up the customers and being jovial.

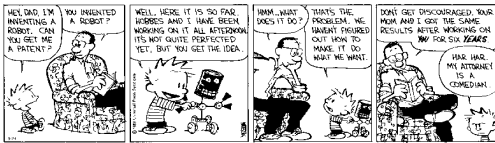
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're down on yourself again. Take the role of the loving parent to your own fragile feelings. You are as deserving of love as any soul on the planet. Tell yourself this often, and your life will transform.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jilison



Calvin and Hobbes



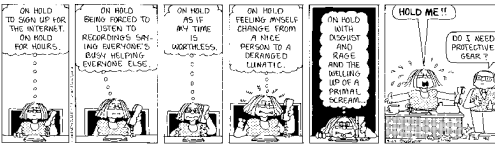
Jojo's Bizarre Adventure



Zits



Cathy



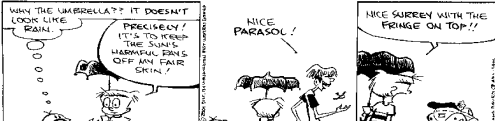
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Cheater puts wife at crossroads

Dear Abby: Last week I kicked my husband out of the house. "Joel" and I have been married four years and have a 3-year-old son.

Two years ago, Joel took up with "Connie," a 20-year-old single co-worker. He insisted they were just friends.

When I found love letters from Connie in his wallet, Joel swore the letters were not from her. Things got messy when I started checking my husband's cell phone bill and discovered he was calling Connie several times a day. Upon checking further, I learned that some of his co-workers also thought something was up.

When Joel learned I'd been asking questions, he became very angry. Then Connie started calling him at the house at all hours. Once, around midnight, she got into a tangle with some guy and instead of calling police, she called Joel—who rushed right over.

Dear Abby



He says he doesn't want a divorce, but every time we talk, we end up fighting because he tries to twist the facts around to make me look like a fishwife.

Should I wait it out to see if Joel will come home to his son and me? Or should I cut him off, divorce him, and pray that God will send me a man who will give me the respect and love I deserve?

— Spurned Wife in Texas

Dear Spurned: Your husband appears to be a remorseless manipulator. You have asked me to make a decision for you that only you should make. Counseling can help you to determine what you want and need to do.

Dear Abby: I'm a single mother with two daughters, 2 and 4. I love them with all my heart, but I'm afraid my yelling is affecting them. I can't control it, and when I do it, I frighten

them. They cover their bodies and start to cry. I have never hit either of them.

This is causing huge fights with their father. He is very involved with them, and he sometimes yells but they don't react the same way.

I feel like a bad mother and monster. What can I do to stop myself from losing my temper and have a better relationship with my daughters?

— Fearful in Minnesota

Dear Fearful: The first thing you must do is get to the bottom of what's triggering your anger. In the meantime, when you feel you're about to blow your stack, leave the room. If necessary, go outside for a few minutes. Count to 10—slowly. Decompress. Get a grip.

Once you have calmed down, you'll be better able to act in an adult and rational manner, rather than react.

Letters for this column—with your name and phone number—should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69404, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NOJIT

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

EBOES

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

SHORUC

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

MASALB

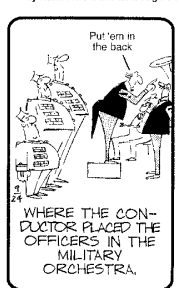
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

A: THE "□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □"

Yesterday's Jumbles: FRIAR NIPPY JOSTLE ATAIN

Answer: When Gramps paid to fill his tires with air he considered it—"INFLATION"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Now arrange the circled letters to form a surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Friend divorcing terminally ill spouse

Dear Annie: My husband and I have been friends with "Bill" and "Karen" for many years. Last year, Bill was diagnosed with a terminal illness and is now undergoing experimental therapies that are very painful, physically draining and extremely expensive. He can no longer work.

At first, Karen rose to the challenge and supported Bill, but now she has decided to file for divorce. She claims the problems in their marriage began long before his diagnosis, but I'm not buying it. Over the years, I've seen Karen leave a fiancé, a friend and an employer when things didn't go as planned.

I have to draw the line somewhere. Divorcing a terminally ill man when he needs his wife the most seems inexcusable to me. Karen tells me she knows this is the right thing for her. She doesn't say whether it's right for Bill.

I was there when Karen promised to stay with Bill "in sickness and in health." My husband thinks we should write off our friendship

Annie's Mailbox



with her. I'm inclined to agree. What do you think?

Disillusioned Friend in Massachusetts

Dear Disillusioned: Karen certainly isn't showing much integrity or loyalty. She runs away when the burden weighs too heavily.

There may be ingrained psychological reasons for this, but it doesn't make her behavior any more acceptable.

Only you can decide if Karen has other qualities that make up for her abandonment of Bill, and if so, you can continue the friendship on that limited level. Meanwhile, please keep an eye on Bill.

Dear Annie: I'm a teacher, 54, divorced, and I live out West. I make an excellent salary and have great benefits. The problem? My entire family, two married daughters, a grandchild, parents, siblings, nieces and nephews, all live in the Midwest. I have no close ties with anyone here, and it's

often very lonely.

I am considering retiring early in order to move closer to my family. However, that would mean leaving a job I love and giving up an excellent retirement program, medical coverage, etc. It would be extremely difficult and exhausting to start over, should I be lucky enough to get hired. I want the financial security, but my heart is calling me home.

— Apple Valley, Calif.

Dear Apple Valley: Can you live on the benefits you will get if you retire now? Can you put aside money and travel home more often? Could you manage with part-time employment? Do some research on the job situation in the Midwest and consider all options. While you are deciding, try becoming more involved in activities to meet people at your current location. Give it a shot before giving up.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie-mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



9-24

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"Grandma said in the old days people got into this thing and you wouldn't have to listen to them talk."

GRAFFITI

At least egotists don't go around talking about other people

Dennis the Menace



© Gary Larson

The Far Side



"Go ahead. Vers ... treat me like dirt."

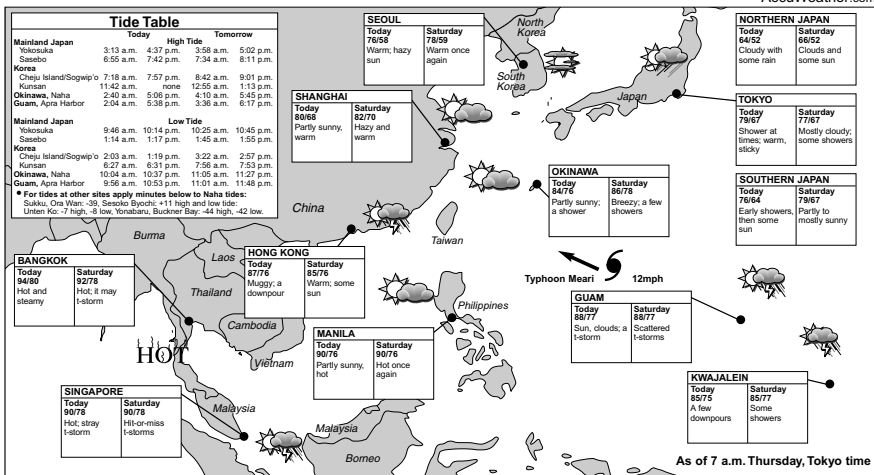
Non Sequitur



The Pacific Forecast

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AccuWeather.com



Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Sunday: Partly sunny, high 75, low 64.
Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 73, low 64.

KADENA

Sunday: Showers, high 86, low 78.
Monday: Showers, high 86, low 76.

SEOUL

Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 77, low 58.
Monday: Partly sunny, high 78, low 58.

MANILA

Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 88, low 76.
Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 88, low 76.

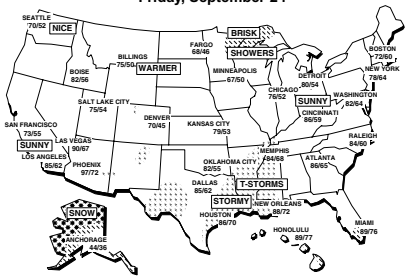
HAGATNA

Sunday: Showers
high 90, low 77.
Monday: Showers
high 88, low 77.

Wednesday's USA Temperatures

| CITY | HIGH/LOW | CITY | HIGH/LOW |
|----------------|----------|----------------|----------|
| Albuquerque | 72/44 | Los Angeles | 96/62 |
| Amario | 73/51 | Little Rock | 88/62 |
| Anchorage | 50/42 | Louisville | 87/62 |
| Asheville | 75/52 | Miami | 87/62 |
| Baltimore | 86/60 | Milwaukee | 80/60 |
| Birmingham | 85/61 | Nashville | 85/55 |
| Boise | 80/50 | New York | 98/62 |
| Boston | 73/52 | Omaha | 83/61 |
| Boulder | 82/64 | Orlando | 88/76 |
| Brownsville | 92/72 | Philadelphia | 86/65 |
| Buffalo | 80/58 | Phoenix | 91/69 |
| Burlington | 80/55 | Pittsburgh | 82/58 |
| Charleston, SC | 86/68 | Portland, OR | 71/55 |
| Charlotte | 85/65 | Portland, ME | 78/55 |
| Chattanooga | 82/62 | Salt Lake City | 87/62 |
| Columbus, OH | 86/59 | St. Louis | 86/63 |
| Duluth | 63/52 | San Antonio | 87/73 |
| El Paso | 87/57 | San Diego | 83/74 |
| El Paso | 82/56 | San Juan | 89/62 |
| Helena | 82/46 | Tampa | 87/72 |
| Indianapolis | 85/63 | Wichita | 87/67 |
| Jacksonville | 85/53 | Washington | 87/67 |
| Kansas City | 85/63 | Wichita | 87/67 |

Friday, September 24



U.S. Extended Forecast

Friday, unquill weather will persist across the eastern United States. High pressure will provide sunny, dry conditions across the West as well. Meanwhile, a cold front will slowly push through the Mississippi Valley, and showers and thunderstorms will rumble ahead of the front. The air behind the boundary is quite cool, so the central Plains will start out chilly. Sunshine should help to warm temperatures into the 70s by the afternoon. Saturday and Sunday, Jeanne will slowly approach the Southeast, so shower activity may increase by late Sunday across the Carolinas. Cooler air will make its way into the Ohio Valley and Great Lakes. Rain-free weather will cover the Rockies

Friday's Pacific Temperatures

| CITY | HIGH/LOW | CITY |
|--------------|----------|-----------|
| Bangkok | 94/80 | Iwakuni |
| Beijing | 77/57 | Kadena AB |
| Camp Casey | 77/55 | Kunsan AB |
| Christchurch | 55/35 | Kwajalein |
| Diego Garcia | 83/74 | Manila |
| Hagalna | 88/77 | Misawa AB |
| Hanoi | 85/75 | Osan |
| Hong Kong | 87/76 | Perth |
| Honolulu | 89/77 | Pusan |

Friday's World Temperatures

| CITY | HIGHLOW | CITY | HIGHLOW | CITY | HIGHLOW | CITY | HIGHLOW |
|-----------|---------|--------------|---------|-------------|---------|----------------|---------|
| Acapulco | 89/73 | Budapest | 61/49 | Kabul | 88/48 | Nairobi | 82/51 |
| Athens | 83/62 | Buenos Aires | 73/50 | Kiev | 53/42 | New Delhi | 91/73 |
| Auckland | 63/48 | Carao | 94/68 | Kuwait | 106/77 | Oslo | 54/43 |
| Bahia | 81/70 | Cancun | 72/71 | London | 54/44 | Santiago | 84/68 |
| Barbados | 91/74 | Cape Town | 60/38 | Madrid | 85/57 | Rio de Janeiro | 78/51 |
| Barcelona | 73/53 | Geneva | 54/45 | Mexico City | 73/54 | Rome | 74/72 |
| Berlin | 58/50 | Istanbul | 82/63 | Montreal | 80/63 | St. Petersburg | 52/41 |
| Bermuda | 96/80 | Jerusalem | 76/67 | Mogadishu | 53/43 | Singapore | 83/68 |
| Brussels | 56/49 | Johannesburg | 82/58 | Moscow | 54/38 | Warsaw | 54/48 |



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SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Friday
AFN-Sports, 1:30 a.m. — Baseball: Chicago Cubs at Pittsburgh.
AFN-Sports, 6 a.m. — Boxing: Balroom Boxing (billed).
AFN-Sports, 8:30 a.m. — College football: Miami at Houston.
AFN-Sports, 8:30 a.m. — Baseball: Philadelphia at Florida.
AFN-Sports, 11 a.m. — Baseball: Oakland at Texas (td).
AFN-Sports, 4 p.m. — Baseball: Baltimore at Boston (td).
AFN-Sports, 5 p.m. — NFL: NFL football: NFL Films game of the week (td).
AFN-Sports, 10 p.m. — Boxing: Balroom boxing (td).

Saturday
AFN-Sports, 5 a.m. — Tennis: Davis Cup (billed).
AFN-Sports, 8 a.m. — Baseball: N.Y. Yankees at Boston.
AFN-Sports, 8 a.m. — College football: Michigan at Georgia.
AFN-Sports, 8:30 a.m. — College football: Ohio State at Northern Illinois.
AFN-Sports, 11 a.m. — College football: Ball State at Boise State.
AFN-Sports, 11 a.m. — Baseball: Los Angeles at San Francisco.
AFN-Sports, 11 a.m. — Baseball: Los Angeles at San Francisco.
AFN-Sports, 8 p.m. — Baseball: Oakland at Anaheim.

(All times Mountain and Korea Standard Time indicate tape-delayed broadcasts. All other dates subject to change. Some radio broadcasts not available in all areas. Visit www.afn.net for more information.)

Pro football

| NFL | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|--|---|---|---|
| AMERICAN CONFERENCE | | | | | | | | | | |
| | W | L | T | P | PF | PA | | W | L | T |
| New England | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 50 | 36 | | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Buffalo | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 36 | | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| West | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 36 | | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Jacksonville | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 26 | | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Indianapolis | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 26 | | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Houston | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 36 | | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| NATIONAL CONFERENCE | | | | | | | | | | |
| | W | L | T | P | PF | PA | | W | L | T |
| Baltimore | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 33 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Dallas | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 44 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Cleveland | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 33 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| West | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 44 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Denver | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 44 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Oakland | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 34 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Kansas City | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 41 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| NATIONAL CONFERENCE | | | | | | | | | | |
| | W | L | T | P | PF | PA | | W | L | T |
| Philadelphia | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 36 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Dallas | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 36 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| N.Y. Giants | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 36 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| West | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 36 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Atlanta | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 36 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Carolina | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 47 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| New Orleans | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 16 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Tampa Bay | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 36 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| North | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 36 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Chicago | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 36 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Green Bay | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 36 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| West | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 36 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Seattle | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 36 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| San Francisco | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 36 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Monday's games
 Detroit 26, Houston 17
 Atlanta 34, St. Louis 17
 Chicago 26, Green Bay 17
 Jacksonville 17, Denver 9
 Indianapolis 20, Washington 17
 Carolina 28, Carolina 17
 Seattle 10, Cleveland 27
 Seattle 10, Tampa Bay 6
 N.Y. Jets 31, San Diego 28
 New England 27, Arizona 12
 Dallas 20, Atlanta 12
Monday's game
 Cleveland at N.Y. Giants
 Pittsburgh at Miami
 New Orleans at St. Louis
 Baltimore at Cincinnati
 Green Bay at Denver
 Tampa Bay at Indianapolis
 Dallas at Washington

Monday, Sept. 27
NFL players of the week
American Conference
 Offense — RB Edgerrin James, Indianapolis
 Defense — S Rodney Harrison, New England
National Conference
 Offense — RB Curtis Martin, New York Jets
 Defense — DE Kenard Lang, New York Jets
Monday's game
 Offense — QB Michael Vick, Denver
 Defense — LB Brian Urlacher, Chicago
Monday's game
 Offense — QB Dariusz Ciolek, Minnesota

Defense — LB Nick Barnett, Green Bay Special — S Bracy Walcott, Detroit

College football

| AM TAP 25 schedule | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Thursday, Sept. 23 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Friday, Sept. 24 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Saturday, Sept. 25 | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. 21 Boston College vs. Stanford | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. 5 Texas vs. Rice | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. 8 Florida State vs. James Madison | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. 5 Auburn vs. The Citadel | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. 11 Tennessee vs. Louisiana Tech | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. 12 Virginia vs. Syracuse | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. 13 LSU vs. Mississippi State | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. 14 Florida vs. Air Force | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. 18 Michigan vs. Iowa | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. 19 Minnesota vs. Northwestern | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. 20 Wisconsin vs. Penn State | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. 22 Arizona State vs. Oregon State | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. 23 Maryland at Duke | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. 24 Louisville at North Carolina | | | | | | | | | | |

Division II Top 25

| Through Sept. 19 | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|---|---|---|-----|----|--|---|---|---|
| Second Top 25 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | W | L | T | P | PF | PA | | W | L | T |
| 1. Grand Valley St., Mich. | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 2 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2. North Dakota | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 2 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 3. North Dakota | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 2 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 4. Texas A&M-Kingsville | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 2 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 5. Northwest Missouri State | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 2 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 6. Cal State, N.C. | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 2 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 7. Central Oklahoma | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 2 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 8. Albany St., N.Y. | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 2 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 9. Tennessee Tech | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 2 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 10. Tennessee Tech | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 2 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 11. Tennessee Tech | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 2 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 12. Tennessee Tech | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 2 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 13. Tennessee Tech | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 2 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 14. Tennessee Tech | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 2 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 15. Tennessee Tech | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 2 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 16. Tennessee Tech | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 2 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 17. Tennessee Tech | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 2 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 18. Tennessee Tech | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 2 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 19. Tennessee Tech | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 2 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 20. Tennessee Tech | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 2 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Division III Top 25

| Through Sept. 19 | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|----|---|---|---|-----|----|--|---|---|---|
| Second Top 25 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | W | L | T | P | PF | PA | | W | L | T |
| 1. Mount Union, Ohio | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 3 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2. United Ohio | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 3 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 3. Wheaton, Ill. | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 3 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 4. Wheaton, Ill. | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 3 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 5. Hardin-Simmons, Texas | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 3 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 6. Hardin-Simmons, Texas | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 3 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 7. Mary Hardin-Baylor, Texas | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 3 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 8. Mary Hardin-Baylor, Texas | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 3 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 9. Trinity, Texas | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 3 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 10. Trinity, Texas | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 3 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 11. St. John's, Minn. | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 3 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 12. St. John's, Minn. | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 3 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 13. Hampden-Sydney, Va. | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 3 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 14. Hampden-Sydney, Va. | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 3 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 15. West-VA State | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 3 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 16. West-VA State | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 3 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 17. West-VA State | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 3 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 18. West-VA State | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 3 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 19. West-VA State | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 3 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 20. West-VA State | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 525 | 3 | | 1 | 0 | 0 |

High school

Japan

Guns

Japan

Japan

Japan

Japan

Japan

Japan

Japan

Japan

Japan

Japan

Japan

Japan

Japan

Japan

Japan

Japan

Japan

vice as-Guam High, Kat Casabar 6. Defensive digs-Guam High, Maymariano Riano 4.

Pro soccer

Major League Soccer

| Eastern Conference | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|---|----|----|----|----|--|----|---|----|
| | W | L | T | P | PF | PA | | W | L | T |
| Columbus | 10 | 5 | 10 | 40 | 31 | 27 | | 10 | 5 | 10 |
| D.C. United | 9 | 9 | 9 | 39 | 31 | 27 | | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| New England | 11 | 9 | 9 | 39 | 31 | 27 | | 11 | 9 | 9 |
| Western Conference | | | | | | | | | | |
| | W | L | T | P | PF | PA | | W | L | T |
| Kansas City | 12 | 9 | 9 | 41 | 35 | 29 | | 12 | 9 | 9 |
| Colorado | 10 | 8 | 8 | 38 | 31 | 27 | | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| Los Angeles | 10 | 8 | 8 | 38 | 31 | 27 | | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| San Jose | 10 | 8 | 8 | 38 | 31 | 27 | | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| San Jose | 10 | 8 | 8 | 38 | 31 | 27 | | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| San Jose | 10 | 8 | 8 | 38 | 31 | 27 | | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| San Jose | 10 | 8 | 8 | 38 | 31 | 27 | | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| San Jose | 10 | 8 | 8 | 38 | 31 | 27 | | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| San Jose | 10 | 8 | 8 | 38 | 31 | 27 | | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| San Jose | 10 | 8 | 8 | 38 | 31 | 27 | | 10 | 8 | 8 |

Tennis

China Open

China Open

China Open

China Open

China Open

China Open

China Open

China Open

China Open

China Open

China Open

China Open

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China Open

China Open

Broncos' Pryce to miss a month

The Associated Press

DENVER — Trevor Pryce came into training camp in the best shape of his life. It didn't do him much good.

The Denver Broncos defensive end will have surgery Wednesday to remove a disc fragment from his lower back.

NFL briefs

He's expected to be out four to six weeks, the first significant time he'll miss due to injury in his eight-year career.

If it is surgery, I've fully come to grips with it," Pryce said Monday before he traveled to California to have his back examined. "I'm hoping it will only keep me out 2½ or three weeks."

Pryce, a four-time Pro Bowler, was declared inactive for the first eight games of his rookie season, and from then through the end of last season, he missed at least one of Denver's 104 regular-season games.

When he came into this season off his 8½-year career in 2003, Pryce proclaimed himself in the best shape of his life. But he hurt his back last month, and hasn't felt right since.

He played sparingly in Denver's opener against Kansas City — mainly because the Broncos line was thinned out with other injuries. Last Sunday before the game against Jacksonville, he went out a few hours before game-time and decided he didn't have enough strength in his legs to play.

When Trevor says something like that, there is something wrong," coach Mike Shanahan said.

Pryce's loss hurts an already battered up line. Defensive tackle Luther Elliss (pectoral muscle) is on the mend. The Broncos also had to re-sign tackle Darion Holman, who was released before the regular season.

On Monday, they traded a conditional 2005 draft pick to Atlanta for tackle Ellis Johnson, who never reported to Falcons camp this season. Johnson led all interior linemen last season with eight sacks.

Injured Panthers RB Davis thinks he won't be out long

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Carolina Panthers think Stephen Davis could be out up to five weeks with a knee injury. Davis says it won't nearly be that long.

Davis had surgery on his right knee to repair torn cartilage last Friday, missing the Panthers' victory over Kansas City.

Carolina is off this week, and Davis has not ruled out playing Oct. 3 against Atlanta.

"I need that to be going to be two to five weeks. It's not going to be five weeks, I know that," Davis said. "It's possible with everything that I'm doing to try to get



Cleveland Browns tight end Kellen Winslow Jr., out for the season with a broken leg, might miss out on a \$5.3 million roster bonus, ESPN.com reported. Winslow's contract stipulates that he must participate in 35 percent of Cleveland's offensive plays to receive the one-time bonus.

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's prognosis. (See Saturday edition for complete injury report provided by the league.)
Starters CB Charles Tillman (knee) out 7-10 weeks
Others LB Sam Cowart (knee) out 4-6 weeks
Others RB Kevin Barlow (knee) expected to play
Rams CB DeJuan Green (sprained knee) doubtful this week
Ravens CB Deion Sanders (hamstring) questionable for Sunday.

myself ready (for Atlanta). Anything is possible."

Davis' rushed return has nothing to do with jealousy over DeShawn Foster's outstanding game against the Chiefs. Foster ran for 174 yards and a touchdown.

Davis and Foster have a strong relationship, and Davis knows the starting job is his whenever he gets back. There is no jealousy between the two, who have developed a big-brother relationship similar to the one Davis has with the Washington Redskins when veteran Terry Allen took him under his wing.

Defiant Bledsoe answers critics

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — A defiant Drew Bledsoe provided a stern response to those questioning whether he's capable of leading the Buffalo Bills.

"I'm the quarterback here. And I'm going to be the quarterback here," Bledsoe said after practice Wednesday. "The players on the team know that. The coaches know that. And that's just simply the way it is."

Bledsoe's comments came during the Bills' off week and as the team attempts to regroup after opening the season with consecutive 13-10 losses to Oakland and Jacksonville. They were in response to a growing number of critics who have begun to question his age and ability to lead the offense, which has yet to shake last season's troubles.

"That's the nature of this position," said Bledsoe, 32, referring to the criticism. "When we win, I'm going to get more credit than I deserve. And when we lose, I'm going to take a lot of it ... I understand that."

"If I couldn't handle that, I wouldn't be here 12 years into a career still fighting to win football games."

Bledsoe's fight has been a loss-

ing battle lately. Including both seasons this season, Bledsoe has lost 12 of 16 starts and five straight. More disturbing is he's coming off the worst season of his career and has not had 200 or more yards passing in his past six outings.

That's a significant drop for a player who set 10 franchise records in 2002, his first season in Buffalo after being traded by New England. And it's a troubling stretch for a four-time Pro Bowl selection who has won only 14 times in 34 starts with the Bills.

With rookie J.P. Losman out for at least half the season with a broken left leg, 12-year veteran Shane Matthews is Bledsoe's backup.

Winslow's broken leg could hurt bonus

CLEVELAND — A few lines in Kellen Winslow Jr.'s contract with the Cleveland Browns could be as costly as the broken leg doctors found on his X-rays.

The rookie tight end, who underwent surgery for his right leg on Tuesday, could miss out on a \$5.3 million roster bonus because he got hurt, ESPN.com reported.

Under terms of the six-year, \$40 million performance-laden contract he signed in August, Winslow must participate in 35 percent of Cleveland's offensive plays to receive the one-time bonus, paid in 2008.

It's unclear whether there is a medical provision to protect Winslow in case of injury.

Dolphins replace PR Brightful

MIAMI — The Miami Dolphins waived punt returner Lamont Brightful, who fumbled three kicks in their latest loss, and signed signed rookie returner Wes Welker on Tuesday.

Welker was waived last week by the San Diego Chargers after averaging 25 yards on four kick-offs in their first game. He had an 81-yard punt return for a touchdown during the exhibition season and set an NCAA record with 10 punt returns for scores at Texas Tech.

Defensive tackle Larry Lester, who suffered a season-ending knee injury in Sunday's loss at Cincinnati, was placed on injured reserve. The Dolphins re-signed fullback Jamar Martin, who had been waived Saturday.

Gordon disciplined by Chassis Racing

The Associated Press

WELCOMED, N.C. — Robby Gordon, who admitted he intentionally caused an accident last Sunday at New Hampshire that involved championship contenders Tony Stewart and Jeremy Mayfield, has been placed on probation by Chassis Racing.

Sports briefs

Richard Chassis Racing for the remainder of the 2004 NASCAR Nextel Cup season.

Team owner Chassis made the announcement Wednesday, apologizing to the fans, media, the teams involved and Chassis, the sponsor of Gordon's No. 31 Chevrolet, for the situation that occurred during the Sylvania 300.

"If there is one positive," Chassis said, "I think this can make Robby understand that there is more to racing than just being aggressive. In this sport today, one action can affect many people's lives on the track and beyond it, as well."

"Many athletes have made mistakes in their careers and would take back the negative things they've said or done if they could."

Gordon was angered 17 laps into Sunday's race when Greg Biffle caused him to spin. After radioing to his crew that he would retaliate, he made good on the threat by intentionally wrecking Biffle later in the race.

Stewart and Mayfield could not avoid the accident, and their cars were severely damaged. Mayfield finished 35th. Stewart was 39th, and neither will likely be able to overcome their resulting point deficits in the final nine races of NASCAR's now 10-race play format.

NASCAR immediately hit Gordon with a two-lap penalty. NASCAR officials later said no further penalty against Gordon was planned.

Serena Sharapova advance to quarterfinals of China Open

BEIJING — Top-seeded Serena Williams struggled Wednesday, beating Russia's Dinara Safina 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 to reach the China Open quarterfinals.

Stimulant champion Maria Sharapova had an easier time, routing fellow Russian Tatiana Panova 6-1, 6-1.

Other winners in the second round included No. 5 seed Nadia Petrova of Russia, sixth-seeded Gisela Dulko of Argentina, seventh-seeded Jelena Jankovic of Serbia-Montenegro and Spain's Anabel Medina Garrigues.

New league for NHL players denies suspension of

TORONTO — A hockey league formed for lockout NHL players called off some preseason games but will proceed with its regular season, which is scheduled to start Oct. 7.

The Original Stars Hockey League, however, disassociated itself from a news release Wednesday saying it had suspended president Randy Gumbley did acknowledge some games will not be played.

"We'll reassess the rest of the



Top-seeded Serena Williams defeated Russia's Dinara Safina 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 on Wednesday in the \$585,000 China Open. Williams, above, said, "Out of a scale of 10, I'd give myself a one."

preseason games after tonight's game in Kitchener," Gumbley told The Canadian Press. "But, for now, it's full steam ahead." A statement from the Sarnia Sports & Entertainment Center on Wednesday, with OSHL letterhead, had the headline: "OSHL Suspends Pre-Season Play." It said there are "plans to take the necessary time to sign additional players, finalize scheduling and sponsorship deals" before continuing play.

It also had a quote from Gumbley saying: "We would like to have had a year to plan this caliber of entertainment." Instead, we've had three weeks."

Gumbley insisted the release was not from the OSHL. "Total, 100 percent — it did not come from us," Gumbley said, adding the game in Sarnia, Ontario, on Sunday was postponed. "But we definitely are proceeding with the regular season commencing on Oct. 7."

The OSHL, a four-on-four exhibition series based in Ontario, was put together to give the players a place to play during the work stoppage. The first few games, however, were marked by little intensity and no hitting or defense. The league has not had better than the regular season level so far.

Wizards 6 Blake out for first month of season

WASHINGTON — Washington Wizards point guard Steve Blake will miss the first month of the NBA season after injuring his ankle during a pickup game.

Blake underwent surgery Wednesday to remove a chipped bone from his right ankle and is expected to miss 10-12 weeks.

Play the



WIN CASH!

Monday in Stars and Stripes and on Ocom.com

Young's slam leaves A's restless

Rangers beat Mulder to open three-game set

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Michael Young didn't let Mark Mulder get out of another bases-loaded jam, and made sure the Texas Rangers kept alive their long-shot chance in the AL West.

Young's grand slam in the fourth, an inning after Mulder escaped trouble, helped the Rangers to a 9-4 victory Tuesday night in the opener of a three-game series against the division-leading Oakland Athletics.

"If Mulder gets out of that inning, who knows what happens," Mark Teixeira said. "The grand slam really hurts. After that, as a team we knew it was over."

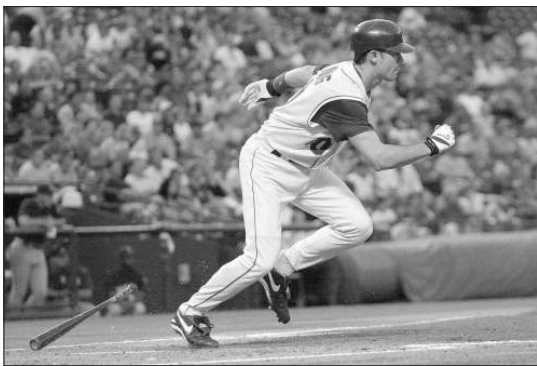
The Athletics trailed 3-2 before Young's second career slam, his 21st home this season. It came after first baseman Scott Hatteberg's two-out error and put the Rangers up 7-2.

"That's the type of thing a player like Mike does for a club," manager Buck Showalter said. "That's what leadership is all about."

Young was an All-Star shortstop this season after switching from second base in spring training. He replaced Alex Rodriguez after the AL MVP was traded to the New York Yankees.

Texas is four games behind the Athletics with 12 to play. Anaheim, which lost 7-3 to Seattle, is 2½ games of Oakland.

While the September struggles of Mulder continued, Ryan Street (14-8) won his third straight start



Texas Rangers' Michael Young leaves the batters box after getting his 200th hit of the season against Oakland Athletics pitcher Mark Mulder in the first inning of the Rangers' 9-4 victory Tuesday in Arlington, Texas.

even though he allowed four runs in 5½ innings.

Mulder (17-6) didn't make it out of the fifth, allowing nine runs — five earned — eight hits, two walks and two hit batters. The left-hander is 0-2 with an 8.22 ERA in four starts this month.

"It was horrible. It was embarrassing," Mulder said. "It's been like that for a while. I'm not doing the team any good. I feel like a hitter who's 0-for-100."

Mulder hit two batters and walked Young in the third, but got out of that with a popout and groundout. He wasn't as fortunate in the fourth with his 2-0 pitch against Young.

"It was one of his sinkers that didn't sink," Oakland manager Ken Macha said.

After finishing last in the AL West four straight seasons, Texas (83-67) went into its last 10-game homestand already assured a winning season and still in contention. The Rangers and A's are meeting this week for the final time this season.

"Our mind-set is we want to go out there and play every game, play out of control ball," Yovos said. "We're not going to come in here with a must-win attitude, because we proved that just doesn't work. We tried that before."

At Minnesota and Boston to start September, when they lost five of six games.

Brian Jordan's RBI single in the first made it 3-0. Young, who doubled for his 200th hit of the season, scored with Hank Blalock on a two-run double by Teixeira, who has 108 RBIs — 94 since June 2.

Mulder was pulled after Kevin Mench singled and Jordan walked to start the fifth. Both scored after the pitching change.

Before Young's slam, Oakland scored with runs in the third and fourth innings, ending Texas' string of 20 straight scoreless innings.

Giambi ends 0-for-32 skid with homer in N.Y. win

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jason Giambi homered to end the longest slump of his career and Esteban Loaiza finally earned his 100th career victory and first for the Yankees, leading New

York over the Toronto Jays 5-3 Tuesday night.

Gary Sheffield hit his 36th home run two days after getting a pair of cortisone shots. Alex Rodriguez almost homered for the Yankees, too, but was robbed on a spectacular catch by center fielder Vernon Wells.

Mariano Rivera matched his career high with his 50th save as the Yankees held their 4½-game lead over Boston in the AL East and stopped Toronto's three-game winning string.

Giambi had been 0-for-32, with 11 of those at-bats coming since he returned from a 10-game rehab list after being diagnosed with a benign tumor.

Loaiza (10-7) outpitched Roy Halladay (7-8) after finishing runner-up to the Toronto ace last year in the AL Cy Young voting.

Red Sox 3, Orioles 2: At Boston, Mark Bellhorn hit a two-run single off Jeremy Lulie in the eighth as the Sox in Boston stopped a three-game losing streak. B.J. Ryan (3-6) had walked Kevin Youkilis, and Bill Mueller had doubled off the Green Monster for his career-high fourth hit of the game.

Curt Schilling cruised through eight innings, striking out a season-high 14 as he went for his major league-leading 21st victory. Given a 1-0 lead on Kevin Mauer's sacrifice fly in the eighth, Keith Foulke (4-3) gave up Javy Lopez's two-run homer on a 3-2 pitch with two outs in the ninth.

White Sox 8, Twins 6: At Chicago, Paul Konerko hit his 40th homer, and Juan Uribe had his first career grand slam, a pinch-hit shot in the seventh.

Ned Cuthbert (3-3) got the win, Shingo Takatsu pitched the ninth for his 18th save and J.C. Romero (7-2) was the loser.

Indians 8, Tigers 7: At Detroit, Casey Blake's bloop single off Esteban Yan (3-5) broke a ninth-inning tie and Ben Broussard had five RBIs as Cleveland rallied from a 7-2 deficit. Bobby Howry (3-1) won, and Bob Womack pitched the ninth for his 10th save.

Devil Rays 7, Royals 4: At St. Petersburg, Fla., Jorge Cantu hit a go-ahead, two-run double off Clayton Kershaw (2-1) during a five-run eighth.

Piniella ejected in Tampa's 10-inning loss

The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Ruben Gotay hit an RBI groundout in the 10th inning and the Kansas City Royals beat the Tampa Bay Devil Rays 7-6 Wednesday.

Devil Rays manager Lou Piniella was ejected in the second by plate umpire Mike Winters for arguing balls and strikes. After being tossed, Piniella came out of the dugout, argued briefly with

Winters, and then kicked dirt onto the plate three times.

Piniella has been ejected twice this season and 56 times as a manager. He has been thrown out 70 times overall during his major league career.

David DeJesus homered and drove in three runs for the Royals.

Tampa Bay's Matt Diaz hit his first major league homer.

Calvin Pickering opened the

10th with a double off Jorge Sosa (4-6) and pinch-runner Wilton Guerrero went to third on Desi Relaford's sacrifice bunt. After Dee Brown was hit by a pitch, Guerrero scored on Gotay's grounder to short.

Mike MacDougal (1-1) worked a scoreless ninth. Jeremy Affeldt pitched the 10th for his 13th save in 16 opportunities.

Kansas City starter Darrell May didn't figure in the decision

and remains one loss from tying Paul Spletzer's team record of 19 set in 1974. May, who is 9-18, gave up five runs and eight hits over six innings.

DeJesus homered and Pickering had an RBI double to put the Royals ahead 2-0 in the first.

Tampa Bay starter Doug Waechter gave up three runs, three hits and three walks in one-plus innings.

Pace: Right fielder Guerrero returns to Angels lineup

PACE, FROM BACK PAGE

Aaron Sele (9-4) allowed five runs and 10 hits in 2½ innings — the third time in four starts that he failed to reach the fifth.

The right-hander is 2-4 in his last eight starts with a 6.75 ERA, after becoming the first pitcher in club history to go from a 7-0, 0.00 ERA to a 1-10, 5.00 ERA in four starts.

"You try to make quality pitches, but at the same time, you need

to get outs."

All-Star right fielder Vladimir Guerrero was back in the Angels lineup, one night after getting beamed on the left side of the head by a pitch from Seattle's Ryan Franklin. Guerrero, who was 1-for-4, hit his second triple of the season and scored on a groundout by Garret Anderson, trimming Seattle's lead to 5-3 in the third.

The Angels learned before the game that they will play the rest

of the season without second baseman Adam Kennedy, who tore ligaments in his right knee Monday night while trying to make a difficult play on Suzuki's ground single off the middle.

Chone Figgins, who has started at six positions this season because of numerous injuries to Angels regulars, made his seventh start at second base. The first pitch of the game was a single up the middle off Figgins' glove, lead-

ing to a three-run inning.

Suzuki scored on a bases-loaded grounder by Bret Boone, and Spezio delivered the other runs. He added an RBI single in the third and a sacrifice fly in the seventh, raising his RBI total to 39.

Andres Galaraga, who has battled back twice from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, made his first start for the Angels at first base in place of slumping Darin Erstad and was 2-for-3 with an RBI single.

Giants rout Astros, turn up heat on L.A.

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Barry Bonds and the San Francisco Giants can reach the playoffs two ways.

They certainly boosted both chances Tuesday night.

Brett Tomko won his sixth consecutive decision and San Francisco beat the Houston Astros 9-2 to maintain

to maintain a wild-card lead and move within 1½ games of first-place Los Angeles in the NL West.

Los Angeles was up by six games on Sept. 11.

"This is what you play all year for. Everything's big," Tomko said.

Before the game, the Giants dropped their right to void the final year of Bonds' contract, meaning the slugger will play at least two more seasons with San Francisco to break Hank Aaron's home run record of 755.

Under the \$90 million, five-year deal agreed to in January 2002, San Francisco could have voided the 2006 season if Bonds failed to reach 500 plate appearances next year or 1,500 combined from 2003-05, including at least 400 next season.

Pedro Felix matched his career high with four RBIs for the Giants, and Tomko (11-6) came within one out of his second complete game in a row.

Bonds drove in a run to help the Giants win for the eighth time

in nine games and snap Houston's four-game winning streak.

The Chicago Cubs are a half-game behind San Francisco in the wild-card race. The Astros dropped two games back.

Bonds remained at 701 homers, finishing 0-for-3 with his 107th intentional walk.

Padres 9, Dodgers 4: Ramon Vazquez and Ramon Hernandez hit three-run homers, and Adam Eaton (11-13) beat visiting Los Angeles for the fourth time this season. The Padres pulled within 5½ games of the Dodgers, but remained four behind the Giants in the wild-card race.

"Where we're at in the standings, we're desperate," The guys played like it tonight," San Diego manager Bruce Bochy said.

Adrian Beltré hit a pair of two-run homers and leads the majors with 47. Jeff Weaver (12-14) added seven runs in 4½ innings.

Cubs 5, Pirates 4 (10): Salomon Torres' wild pitch allowed the go-ahead run to score in the 10th inning, and Aramis Ramirez hit a two-run homer for Chicago at PNC Park.

The Cubs couldn't hold a 4-1 lead, with the Pirates tying it in the ninth on Jack Wilson's RBI single, but rallied to win their 10th straight game.

Braves 5, Reds 4: At Atlanta, John Thomson pitched seven strong innings, Julio Franco had three hits and the Braves reduced their magic number for winning the NL East to one.

Atlanta can clinch its 13th straight division title as soon as



Los Angeles Dodgers manager Jim Tracy, right, pulls starting pitcher Jeff Weaver in the fifth inning of the Dodgers' 9-4 loss.

Thursday, Thomson (13-8) is 7-1 in his last 14 starts. John Smoltz Earned his 40th save, the 150th of his career.

Phillies 4, Marlins 2: Cory Lidle (10-12) took a no-hitter into the seventh inning, Ryan Madson escaped a jam, and Philadelphia ended two years of frustration in Florida.

The Phillies had lost 14 consecutive games in Miami, including seven this season.

Expos 6, Mets 1: Tony Batista homered twice to reach 30 this season, Livan Hernandez pitched another complete game and the Expos won before just \$3.39 at Olympic Stadium.

The Expos, last in the NL East since April 15, moved within one game of tying New York for fourth place in the division.

Brewers 6, Cardinals 4: Victor Santos (11-11) won for the second time in 12 starts and rookie Dave Krysan scored three runs to help the Brewers stop a seven-game skid with a victory in Milwaukee.

Baseball's relocation committee.

The meeting focused on details of an agreement that would conditionally award the Expos to the nation's capital, bringing baseball back to the city for the first time since 1971.

Baseball's eight-man executive committee meets Thursday in Milwaukee, and Commissioner Bud Selig could announce a decision by the end of next week.

Piniella: 'I'm staying here' with Tampa Bay

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. Tampa Bay manager Lou Piniella made his strongest statement Tuesday about remaining with the Devil Rays next season.

"I'm staying here," Piniella said before his team played Kansas City. "All these things that have been talked about, they're all somebody's speculation. Nothing's come out from me. I'm signed here two more years. With me, it's always been nothing but speculation. That's all it is."

Piniella's name has been mentioned as a potential successor to New York Mets manager Art Howe, who will not return next year.

Tampa Bay, with a payroll around \$23 million, is attempting to finish higher than the AL East cellar for the first time this season.

Yokota vs. Kimick: It's all on the lines

First-place JFL showdown will be won in trenches, coaches say

By DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

Stellar senior backs Leonard Lynch and Chris Roach have piled up yards and touchdowns with machine-like precision.

Roach has paced Yokota to a 2-0 record, rolling up 492 yards and 10 touchdowns. Lynch's numbers aren't quite as high, 352 yards and six TDs, but he's helped the Nile C. Kinnick Red Devils match the Panthers' mark, with their first-place showdown looming Friday at Yokosuka Naval Base.

But neither would be where they are without the play of their offensive lines — something which will determine the outcome of Friday's game, the teams' coaches say.

"You give yourself the best chance of winning if you control the offense's scrambling on both sides of the ball," said Tim Pijo, whose Panthers will aim for their 42nd straight on-field victory Friday.

Yokota forfeited two wins in 2002 for using an ineligible player.

"For either team, and that's been the case of Yokota's struggles over the past five years, the line has to clear the way for the running back," added Red Devils coach Robert Stovall. "No backs are good without the line."

Friday's winner will seize the early edge in the battle for the JFL title. Yokota is 1-0 in the last five years, and for the right to host Rising Sun Bowl VI on Nov. 13 against the Okinawa Activities Council champion.

While Yokota battles Kinnick, the defending Okinawa champion Kadena Buccaneers (0-1) are at the Kubasaki Samurai (1-0), while the Kadena Islanders (1-0) entertain the Kubasaki Shogun (1-0).

The Top 10

The Top 10 teams in the Stars and Stripes 2004 JFL high school football ratings, with records through Sept. 18, and their best players as compiled by Dave Ornauer of Stars and Stripes. The ratings are primarily on teams' win-loss records, quality of wins, strength of overall roster, point differential, team and individual statistics, strength of schedule and strength of leagues. Maximum rating is 500 points.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| 1. Yokota (Jugan) | 2-0 | 444 | 3 |
| 2. St. Peter's (Guam) | 2-0 | 444 | 3 |
| 3. Kadena Islanders (OKI) | 1-0 | 426 | 6 |
| 4. Yokota (Jugan) | 2-0 | 417 | 7 |
| 5. Nile C. Kinnick (Japan) | 2-0 | 412 | 7 |
| 6. Nile C. Kinnick (Japan) | 2-0 | 386 | 8 |
| 7. Robert D. Edgren (Japan) | 2-1 | 388 | 8 |
| 8. Kadena Samurai (OKI) | 1-0 | 388 | 8 |
| 9. John C. Kennedy (Guam) | 1-1 | 384 | 9 |
| 10. St. Peter's (Guam) | 2-0 | 358 | 10 |

Week 4 Outlook

Friday, Sept. 24

Yokota 16, Nile C. Kinnick 14
Kadena Islanders 24, Kubasaki Shogun 8
Kadena Buccaneers 12, Kubasaki Samurai 10

Saturday, Sept. 25

Yokota 34, Nile C. Kinnick 14
George Washington 14, John C. Kennedy 13
John C. Kennedy 20, Simon Shogun 18
Father Dunne 19, Guam International Christian Academy 3

Week 3 Grid Honors

Nile C. Kinnick — Leonard Lynch 208 yards, two touchdowns, nine carries; 53 yards, two touchdowns, six carries. **Chris Roach** — 140 yards, four touchdowns, nine carries; 53 yards, two touchdowns, six carries. **Robert D. Edgren** — 140 yards, four touchdowns, nine carries; 53 yards, two touchdowns, six carries.

Kadena Buccaneers — Darrell Whomah 112 all-purpose yards (40 yards, 16 carries; 72 yards, two touchdowns, one interception); 100 yards, two touchdowns, 10 carries.

Kadena Islanders — Keith Loving 100 yards, two touchdowns, 10 carries; 100 yards, two touchdowns, 10 carries. **Yokota** — 100 yards, two touchdowns, 10 carries; 100 yards, two touchdowns, 10 carries.

Kubasaki Shogun — Rafael McEwen 86 yards, two touchdowns, 10 carries; 100 yards, two touchdowns, 10 carries; 100 yards, two touchdowns, 10 carries.

Kubasaki Samurai — Leonard White 100 yards, one touchdown, 17 carries; one sack, two fumble recoveries.

Zama American — Chris Johnson 128 yards, two touchdowns, 10 carries; 100 yards, two touchdowns, 10 carries.

Seoul American — Bruce Vetter 109 yards, two touchdowns, 10 carries; 100 yards, two touchdowns, 10 carries; 100 yards, two touchdowns, 10 carries; 100 yards, two touchdowns, 10 carries; 100 yards, two touchdowns, 10 carries.

SPORTS



Expected to be Super Bowl
contenders, Chiefs' 0-2 hole
getting deeper, Page 27



Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki, above, became the first player since Tony Gwynn in 1993 to have four five-hit games in a season in the Mariners' 7-3 victory over the Anaheim Angels.

Suzuki keeps perfect pace

5-for-5 night puts Seattle outfielder within 14 hits of Sisler's 1920 mark

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — With his fourth five-hit game of the season, Ichiro Suzuki pulled within 14 hits of George Sisler's season record.

Suzuki went 5-for-5 Tuesday night in the Seattle Mariners' 7-3 victory over Anaheim, his second five-hit game against the Angels this season.

"I think they all know me, and I know them," Suzuki said through an interpreter. "They know what I can do and I know what they can do. So when you play against them for a few years, it becomes a battle of what you want to try to do next. I think I have an opportunity to get hits every time I get to the plate. I go up there."

Anaheim remained 2½ games behind Oakland in the AL West and dropped 5½ games behind Boston in the wild-card race.

Suzuki became the first player with four five-hit games in a season since San Diego's Tony Gwynn in 1993, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

He has 11 games left to break the record of 257 set by Sisler with the 1920 St. Louis Browns. Suzuki singled every time up and raised his batting average to .372, taking over the major league lead from San Francisco's Barry Bonds (.369).

"I think it's hard for a player to think about records and understand how much it means while you're playing," Suzuki said.

"After your career is over, then you can really enjoy the records and achievements."

Suzuki also had five-hit games July 29 at Anaheim, Aug 3 at Baltimore and Sept. 5 at the Chicago White Sox.

"Ichiro's got maybe the best eye-hand coordination that I've seen from a guy with a bat in his hand," winning pitcher Jamie Moyer said. "He's been here almost four years now, and he hits balls everywhere they're pitched. You throw a pitch two inches

Most hits in a season

Through Sept. 21
(x-active)

| Player | Year | No. |
|------------------------------------|------|-----|
| 1. George Sisler | 1920 | 257 |
| 2. Bill Terry | 1930 | 254 |
| 3. Lefty O'Doul | 1929 | 254 |
| 4. M. Delmonico | 1925 | 253 |
| 5. Rogers Hornsby | 1927 | 250 |
| 6. Chuck Klein | 1930 | 250 |
| 7. Ty Cobb | 1911 | 248 |
| 8. George Sisler | 1922 | 248 |
| 9. Ichiro Suzuki | 2004 | 243 |
| 10. Ichiro Suzuki | 2001 | 242 |
| 11. Babe Herman | 1930 | 241 |
| 12. Heinie Manush | 1928 | 241 |
| 13. Darin Erstad | 2000 | 240 |
| 13. Wade Boggs | 1985 | 240 |
| *11 games left to play this season | | |

off the ground, up in the zone, off the plate, inside, and he can put the bat on the ball. He's in the driver's seat."

Scott Spiezio celebrated his 32nd birthday with four RBIs against the team he helped win a World Series two years ago.

He's been impressed watching Suzuki up close.

"I always thought he was amazing, but I never knew about his preparation and his mind-set before the game, and how consistent he was with it," Spiezio said. "It's almost like a martial arts-type thing, where he gets into a zone and he finds a way to get on base."

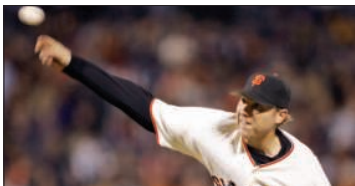
Moyer (7-12), who had been 0-10 since winning at Pittsburgh on June 18, allowed three runs and six hits in six-plus innings to help the Mariners avoid going 39 games under .500 for the first time this season. Seattle, which had 18 hits, must win six of its last 11 games to avoid its first 100-loss season since 1983.

"Wins, to me, are a team effort," Moyer said. "It's more important for me to keep us in the game and pitch effectively. The wins take care of themselves. My biggest issue has been keeping the lead after we get it."

SEE PAGE ON PAGE 30

**RHP Tomko
wins sixth
straight decision,
Giants cut
Dodgers' lead
in NL West with
victory over Astros**

Page 31



**Giambi snaps
career-worst
0-for-32 slump
with homer as
Yankees maintain
4½-game lead
in AL East**

Page 30

Yokota meets Kinnick in early JFL showdown Page 31

